



FLIGHT GROUNDED



Trump denies Pelosi aircraft for trip abroad

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

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WASHINGTON (AP) — It took President Donald Trump one day to flex his executive power back at House

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, denying her an aircraft to visit troops abroad in apparent response to her attempt to delay his State of Union ad-

dress. The nation's two most powerful leaders appeared to be engaged in a game of constitutional one-upman-

ship as negotiations to end the monthlong partial government shutdown failed to produce results. In a letter to Pelosi on Thurs-

day, Trump said the shut-down would have to delay her trip, which was to begin Thursday.

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U.S. shutdown stalls training, other prep for wildfire season

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Just two months after a wildfire wiped out Paradise, California, officials are gearing up for this year's fire season and fear the government shutdown could make it even more difficult than one of the worst in history. The winter months are critical for wildfire managers who use the break from the flames to prepare for the next onslaught, but much of that effort has ground to a halt on U.S. land because employees are furloughed. Firefighting training courses are being canceled from Tennessee to Oregon, piles of dead trees are untended in federal forests and controlled burns to thin dry vegetation aren't getting done.

Although the furloughs only affect federal employees, the collaborative nature of wildland firefighting means the pain of the four-week-long shutdown is having a ripple effect — from firefighters on the ground to federal contractors and top managers who control the firefighting strategy. State and local crews who



In this Nov. 12, 2018 file photo a firefighter battles a fire along the Ronald Reagan Freeway, aka state Highway 118, in Simi Valley, Calif.

Associated Press

need training classes, for example, are scrambling without federal instructors. Conservation groups that work with the U.S. Forest Service to plan wildfire-prevention projects on federal

lands are treading water. Annual retreats where local, state and federal firefighting agencies strategize are being called off.

The fire season starts as early as March in the southeastern United States, and by April, fires pop up in the Southwest. Last year's most devastating fire leveled the Northern California town of Paradise just before Thanksgiving, leaving just a few months to prepare between seasons.

"I think a lot of people don't understand that while there's not fire going on out there right now, there's a lot of really critical work going on for the fire season — and that's not getting done," said Michael DeGrosky, chief of the Fire Protection Bureau for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. It's especially important with climate change making wildfire seasons longer, deadlier and more destructive.

DeGrosky was supposed to be teaching a course this week for firefighters who want to qualify for the command staff of a fire management team. But the class was canceled without instructors from federal agencies.

Similar classes were called off in Oregon and Tennessee, and others face the same fate as the shutdown drags on. President Donald Trump and congressional Democrats are at odds over funding for a border wall.

A dozen senators from Oregon, California, New Mexico, Washington, Colorado, Nevada, West Virginia and Michigan sent a letter this week to Trump warning that the shutdown would put lives at risk this coming fire season. Classes necessary for fire incident managers, smokejumpers and hotshot crews are in jeopardy in the near future, the senators said.

Smokejumpers parachute into remote forests to battle blazes not accessible by firefighters on the ground and hotshot crews are small groups of elite firefighters trained to battle the most ferocious flames.

The winter is also when seasonal firefighters apply for jobs, get the required drug tests and move to where they will train and work. In many cases, there's no one to answer the phone or process the applications, and some potential recruits may decide to work elsewhere to avoid the hassle.

"Even if the shutdown ends and we start hiring people, we will have missed the cream of the crop," DeGrosky said.

The U.S. Forest Service said in an email that the agency was committed to hiring for temporary and permanent firefighting positions and would continue critical training "to the extent feasible."

The first session of an apprenticeship program for wildland firefighters went ahead this week, Forest Service spokeswoman Katie O'Connor said.

"The agency is assessing and prioritizing the activities we are able to maintain while in shutdown status. We are unable to speculate on specific impacts while the government shutdown is ongoing and ever-changing," O'Connor said in a statement.

Conservationists and fire managers say there are other concerns.

Clearing and thinning projects and planned burns on federal land that could lessen fire danger by weeding out flammable debris also are largely on hold in California, Oregon and elsewhere. Private contractors say they have received letters telling them to stop the work.

There's already a backlog of such projects in federal forests in Oregon and Northern California, said Michael Wheelock, president of Grayback, a private contractor in Grants Pass, Oregon.

Intentional fires can only be set in a narrow winter window before temperatures and humidity falls — and that is rapidly closing, Wheelock said.

"Every week that goes by, it's going to start increasing the impact," he said.

Joyce McLean, who lost her and her husband's home in Paradise last November, supports Trump's push for a border wall but worries what will happen if firefighters aren't prepared for next time.

"I hope there are no more forest fires," said McLean, 74. "I wouldn't wish that on nobody." □

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BIG SPEECH

Continued from Front

"In light of the 800,000 great American workers not receiving pay, I'm sure you would agree that postponing this public relations event is totally appropriate," he said.

Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill said she planned to travel to Afghanistan and Brussels to thank service members and obtain briefings on national security and intelligence "from those on the front lines." He noted Trump had traveled to Iraq during the shutdown and said a Republican-led congressional trip also had taken place.

The political tit-for-tat between Trump and Pelosi underscored the tension between the two leaders, both playing to their core supporters as they battle over the president's demand for money to build a U.S.-Mexico border wall. The sparring took place as hundreds of thousands of federal workers go without pay and Washington's routine protocols — a president's speech to Congress, a lawmaker's official trip — become inflamed from the budget fight.

Pelosi would normally make such a trip on a military aircraft supplied by the Pentagon. According to a defense official, Pelosi did request Defense Department support for overseas travel and it was initially approved. The official wasn't authorized to speak by name about the matter, so spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said the president does have the authority to cancel the use of military aircraft.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump wanted Pelosi to stay in Washington before Tuesday, a deadline to prepare the next round of paychecks for federal workers.

"We want to keep her in Washington," Sanders said. "The president wants her here to negotiate."

Trump's move to ground the speaker came after Pelosi threatened Trump's planned Jan. 29 State of the Union address, saying the shutdown raised concerns about whether

the forum could have adequate security. Republicans said she was merely trying to deny the president the stage.

While Pelosi did not immediately respond to being denied her trip, the No. 2 Democrat in the House, Rep. Steny Hoyer, called Trump's action "petty. It is small. It is vindictive."

Some Republicans also expressed frustration. Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham tweeted: "One sophomoric response does not deserve another." He called Pelosi's State of the Union move "very irresponsible and blatantly political" but said Trump's effort was "also inappropriate."

Trump has still not said how he will handle Pelosi's attempt to have him postpone his State of the Union address until the government is reopened so workers can be paid for providing security for the grand Washington tradition.

Pelosi told reporters earlier Thursday: "Let's get a date when government is open. Let's pay the employees. Maybe he thinks it's OK not to pay people who do work. I don't."

Trump declined to address the stalemate over the speech Thursday during a visit to the Pentagon, simply promising that the nation will have "powerful, strong border security."

Pelosi reiterated she is willing to negotiate money for border security once the government is reopened, but she said Democrats remain opposed to Trump's long-promised wall. "I'm not for a wall," Pelosi said twice, mouthing the statement a third time for effect.

While the shutdown dragged on, the State Department instructed all U.S. diplomats in Washington and elsewhere to return to work next week with pay, saying it had found money for their salaries at least temporarily. In a notice to staff, the department said it can pay most of its employees beginning Sunday or Monday for their next pay period. They will not be paid for time worked since the shutdown began in December until the situation is resolved, said the notice.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had raised eye-



Internal Revenue Service employees, front row from the left, Brian Lanouette, of Merrimack, N.H., Mary Maldonado, of Dracut, Mass., and Maria Zangari, of Haverhill, Mass., display placards during a rally by federal employees and supporters, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, in front of the Statehouse, in Boston, held to call for an end of the partial shutdown of the federal government.

Associated Press

brows among the U.S. diplomatic corps last week when he proclaimed that morale at the State De-

partment was "good" despite the shutdown and the fact that 40 percent of its employees in the U.S. and

nearly 23 percent overseas had been furloughed and the rest were working without pay. □

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Cohen says he rigged online polls for Trump in 2014, 2015

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's estranged former lawyer acknowledged Thursday that he paid a technology company to rig Trump's standing in two online polls before the presidential campaign. Michael Cohen tweeted that "what I did was at the direction of and for the sole benefit of" Trump.

"I truly regret my blind loyalty to a man who doesn't deserve it," he added.

Cohen was responding to an article in The Wall Street Journal that said Cohen stiffed the owner of the technology company out of tens of thousands of dollars he promised for work that included using a computer script to enter fake votes for Trump in a 2014 CNBC poll asking people to identify top business leaders and a 2015 poll of potential presidential candidates.

The company owner, John Gauger, told the newspaper that Cohen promised him \$50,000 for the work but instead gave him a blue Walmart bag stuffed with between \$12,000 and \$13,000 in cash, plus a box-



In this Dec. 7, 2018 file photo, Michael Cohen, former lawyer to President Donald Trump, leaves his apartment building in New York.

Associated Press

ing glove Cohen claimed had been worn by a Brazilian mixed-martial arts fighter.

Cohen disputed he paid cash, telling the Journal that "all monies paid to Mr. Gauger were by check." He offered no further comment.

Federal prosecutors referred to a payment to Gauger's company—though not by name—when Cohen was charged last summer with violating campaign-finance laws by arranging hush-money

payments to two women who claim they had extramarital affairs with Trump.

They said in a charging document that Cohen had been reimbursed by the Trump Organization for payments to the women, plus \$50,000 for "tech services" that he requested in a handwritten note.

Messages seeking comment were sent to the Trump Organization Thursday.

Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, told The Associated Press that the president

"had no knowledge" of any effort to manipulate polling data on his behalf.

He called Cohen a "liar" and a "thief" for seeking reimbursement for more money than he'd paid Gauger's company, Red-Finch Solutions LLC.

Gauger is also the chief information officer at Liberty

University in Lynchburg, Virginia. His attorney declined to comment. Cohen was recently sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to tax crimes, bank fraud and campaign violations that were not related to his dealings with Gauger and the technology company. □

Congressman who worked on Trump's PA campaign is resigning



In this file photo from Dec. 15, 2016 Rep. Tom Marino, R-Pa., stands with other elected officials as then President-elect Donald Trump, departs a rally in Hershey, Pa.

Associated Press

By MARC LEVY and MARK SCOLFORO

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Tom Marino, a five-term Republican congressman who helped steer Donald Trump's successful presidential campaign in Pennsylvania, said Thursday that he is resigning just days into a new term. In a statement, Marino said his last day will be Jan. 23 and that he is taking a job in the private sector. Marino and his office did not respond to questions about the announcement Thursday.

Marino easily won re-election in November in his heavily Republican district in northern Pennsylvania. The 66-year-old former county and federal prosecutor was one of Trump's earliest supporters in Congress. Trump nicknamed

Marino and former Rep. Lou Barletta "thunder and lightning" when they co-chaired his campaign in Pennsylvania.

Trump nominated Marino in 2017 to become the nation's drug czar, but Marino withdrew his name from consideration after reports he played a key role in a law that weakened federal power to stop companies from distributing opioids.

At the time, Marino defended his work on the law, which passed without opposition in the House and Senate and was signed by President Barack Obama, and said it will help "facilitate a balanced solution" between access to medication and law enforcement's efforts to prevent abuse.

Marino, who lives in Cogan Station, was a U.S. attorney in the Middle District of Pennsylvania under President George W. Bush and has survived multiple bouts of kidney cancer.

Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat, must schedule a special election to fill Marino's seat.

Marino's resignation is likely to set off a furious scramble to secure votes among the committee members of the state Republican Party who will select a nominee to run in the special election.

The sprawling district covers all or parts of 15 counties. Registered Republicans outnumber Democrats there by nearly 100,000. □

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Gov. Pritzker signs bill allowing Illinois to license gun dealers

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Gov. J.B. Pritzker authorized state regulation of firearms dealers Thursday in a reversal of his predecessor's policy and prompting a gun owners group to threaten legal action against Illinois. Pritzker, sworn in on Monday, chose an elementary school in Chicago to sign legislation meant to cut down on illegal purchases of firearms through video monitoring, tighter inventory control and gun-shop employee training.

"We can prevent someone from buying a gun for someone else who is not legally allowed to own a gun," said Pritzker, standing next to Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson, whose force confiscated 10,000 illegal guns last year. "Many of the incidents of gun violence that occur in our city and all across our state occur with illegal guns."

The law affects about 2,400 firearms dealers and its provisions take effect in six months. Each must show it is licensed with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and purchase a five-year state permit — \$1,500 for retail shops and \$300 for independent dealers. Each must install videotaping in retail sections of the store, maintain an electronic inventory and require annual employee training in spotting so-called straw purchases.

The Illinois State Rifle Association promised a lawsuit challenging the plan.

"The federal government already licenses gun dealers. There is no need to add yet another layer of bureaucracy on gun dealers," executive director Richard Pearson said in a statement. "The only thing this measure is going to do is make it cost more money

for gun dealers to do business in Illinois, which is going to hurt the smaller dealers.

"The action taken today is another assault on our 2nd Amendment rights."

Pritzker, who already this week reversed course on GOP Gov. Bruce Rauner's policies toward labor with pro-union action, said gun-rights organizations are "just wrong" in their criticism of the licensing bill. He added, "I'm going to continue to make sure that we're standing up to the voices like the Illinois State Rifle Association and the National Rifle Association to protect our families and our children."

Lawmakers endorsed the idea twice last year. Rauner vetoed the first version in March. Democrats who control the General Assembly, led by Sen. Don Harmon of Oak Park, OK'd it again in May but never sent it to Rauner for consideration.

"Thank you for figuring out in four days what some other people couldn't figure out in four years," Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said to Pritzker. "You don't need a Ph.D. from Harvard to figure out that if you're going to regulate a barber shop and a bar, maybe you should regulate a gun dealer."

Harmon, who first introduced the idea in 2003, said the law is more about allowing the state to gather information on straw purchases through video monitoring and electronic inventory and sales records than it is about punishing dealers. While the ATF audits gun shops, Harmon said the federal agency has fewer than two dozen agents to oversee all of Illinois' dealers. He contended audits occur only once every three to five years and only verify whether a

gun is in the dealer's inventory or has been sold, not examining patterns or regularity of purchases.

"We can't think that this bill, however important it is, is the solution," Harmon said. "It will help but there's more work to be done." □



Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker holds paperwork after he signed legislation that requires gun stores to get state licenses, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 at Young Elementary School in Chicago.

Associated Press

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Watchdog: Thousands more children may have been separated



In this Dec. 13, 2018, file photo, teen migrants walk in line inside the Tornillo detention camp in Tornillo, Texas.

Associated Press

By COLLEEN LONG and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands more migrant children may have been split from their families than the Trump administration previously reported, in part because officials were stepping up family separations long before the border policy that prompted international outrage last spring, a government watchdog said Thursday.

It's unclear just how many family separations occurred at the U.S.-Mexico border; immigration officials are allowed under longstanding policy to separate families under certain circumstances. Health and Human Services, the agency tasked with caring for migrant children, did not adequately track them until after a judge ruled that children must be reunited with their families, according to the report by the agency's inspector general.

Ann Maxwell, assistant inspector general for evaluations, said the number of children removed from their parents was certainly larger than the 2,737 listed by the government in court documents. Those documents chronicled separations that

took place as parents were criminally prosecuted for illegally entering the country under President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" policy.

"It's certainly more," Maxwell said. "But precisely how much more is unknown."

Maxwell said investigators didn't have specific numbers, but that Health and Human Services staff had estimated the tally to be in the thousands.

Lee Gelernt, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney who sued on behalf of a mother separated from her son, said the separation policy "was a cruel disaster from the start. This report reaffirms that the government never had a clear picture of how many children it ripped from their parents."

Most of the tens of thousands of children who come into government custody cross the border alone. But the report found that in late 2016, 0.3 percent of children turned over to Health and Human Services had crossed with a parent and were separated. By the summer of 2017, that percentage had grown to 3.6 percent, officials said. The watchdog did not give exact numbers, but the total number of migrant chil-

dren who passed through the agency's care during the 2017 budget year was 40,810. The separated children had already been released to sponsors, who are generally parents or other close relatives.

The inspector general did not say why the children had been separated before the zero-tolerance policy. Immigration officials are allowed to take a child from a parent in certain cases — serious criminal charges against a parent, concerns over the health and welfare of a child or medical concerns. That policy has long been in place.

Katie Waldman, a spokeswoman for Homeland Security, said the report reinforced what officials have long said.

"For more than a decade it was and continues to be standard for apprehended minors to be separated when the adult is not the parent or legal guardian, the child's safety is at risk" or there's a record of a "serious criminal activity by the adult," she said.

In some cases, however, Homeland Security officials said a parent had a criminal history but did not offer details on the crimes, the watchdog reported.

The number of families coming across the border has grown even as overall illegal border crossings have decreased dramatically compared with historic trends. Over the past three months, families made up the majority of Border Patrol arrests.

The Administration for Children and Families, the division under Health and Human Services that manages the care of unaccompanied minors, said it generally agreed with the findings and noted the report did not find that the agency lost track of children under its care. It also noted new policies were in place to help track newly separated children. And the court never instructed officials to determine the number of children separated before the June 26 ruling.

Last spring, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions said anyone caught crossing the border illegally would be criminally prosecuted. Families were brought into custody by U.S. Border Patrol officials, then their parents taken to criminal court. If the parents were gone longer than 72 hours — the length of time Border Patrol is allowed to hold children — the children

were transferred to the custody of Health and Human Services.

The practice prompted an outcry, with church groups and lawmakers calling the separations inhumane. Trump ordered an end to the separations on June 20. At the time, a federal judge who was already hearing the case of a mother separated from her son ruled that children must be reunited with their parents. Since the court order, 118 children have been separated.

Despite "considerable" effort by Health and Human Services to locate all the children placed in its care, the report said officials were still finding new cases as long as five months after the judge's order requiring reunifications.

"There is even less visibility for separated children who fall outside the court case," investigators concluded.

They said it's not clear the system put in place to track separated children is good enough. And the lack of detail from immigration authorities continues to be an issue.

The border remains a crucible for the Trump administration, with a partial government shutdown that has dragged on nearly a month over the president's demand for \$5.7 billion for a border wall that congressional Democrats are unwilling to provide.

The inspector general's office was also looking into other aspects of the separations, including the health and mental well-being of the children who had been separated. It expects to have other reports on the topic.

Democratic Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said he would hold the government accountable in the matter. "The Trump administration, with its unique blend of incompetence, cruelty, and disregard for basic decency, misled the American public on one of its most heinous policies to date," he said in a statement. □

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ONLINE****www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com****Judge acquits 3 Chicago officers of Laquan McDonald cover-up**By **DON BABWIN** and **MICHAEL TARM**

CHICAGO (AP) — A judge on Thursday acquitted three Chicago officers of trying to cover up the 2014 shooting of Laquan McDonald, dismissing as just one perspective the shocking dashcam video of the black teenager's death that led to protests, a federal investigation of the police department and the rare murder conviction of an officer.

In casting off the prosecution's entire case, Judge Domenica Stephenson seemed to accept many of the same defense arguments that were rejected in October by jurors who convicted officer Jason Van Dyke of second-degree murder and aggravated battery. He is scheduled to be sentenced Friday.

The judge said the video showed only one viewpoint of the confrontation and that there was no indication the officers tried to hide evidence.

"The evidence shows just the opposite," she said. She singled out how they preserved the graphic video at the heart of the case.

McDonald's family questioned how the two cases could produce such different decisions. His great uncle, the Rev. Marvin Hunter, told reporters that the verdict means "that if you are a police officer you can lie, cheat and steal."

"To say that these men are not guilty is to say that Jason Van Dyke is not guilty." He added: "It is a sad day for America."

Prosecutor Ron Safer tried to put a positive spin on the verdict.

"This case was a case where the code of silence was on trial," he said, referring to the long tradition that officers don't report wrong-

doing by their colleagues.

"The next officer is going to think twice about filing a false police report. Do they want to go through this?"

Special prosecutor Patricia Brown Holmes said she hoped the verdict would not make officers reluctant to come forward when they see misconduct. Her key witness, officer Dora Fontaine, described how she had become a pariah in the department and was called a "rat" by fellow officers.

The shooting has provoked periodic street protests since 2015, when the video came to light, and the acquittals could renew that movement.

"We will be down here tomorrow by the hundreds, and we will cry out for justice for Laquan," activist Eric Russell said.

The trial was watched closely by law enforcement and critics of the department, which has long had a reputation for condoning police brutality.

Officer Joseph Walsh, officer Thomas Gaffney and detective David March were accused of conspiracy, official misconduct and obstruction of justice. All but Gaffney have since left the department. They asked the judge, rather than a jury, to hear the evidence.

After the verdict, Walsh would say only that the ordeal of being charged and tried was "heart-breaking for my family, a year and a half."

In her ruling, the judge rejected prosecution arguments that the video demonstrated officers were lying when they described McDonald as moving and posing a threat even after he was shot.

"An officer could have reasonably believed an attack

was imminent," she said. "It was borne out in the video that McDonald continued to move after he fell to the ground" and refused to relinquish a knife.

The video appeared to show the teen collapsing in a heap after the first few shots and moving in large part because bullets kept striking his body for 10 more seconds.

The judge said it's not unusual for two witnesses to describe events in starkly different ways. "It does not necessarily mean that one is lying," she said.

The judge also noted several times that the vantage points of various officers who witnessed the shooting were "completely different." That could explain why their accounts did not



This combination of Nov. 28, 2018 file photos shows former Chicago Police officer Joseph Walsh, left, former detective David March and former officer Thomas Gaffney, accused of trying to cover up the fatal shooting of Laquan McDonald, during a bench trial before Judge Domenica A. Stephenson at Leighton Criminal Court Building in Chicago.

Associated Press

sync with what millions of people saw in the video.

Both Van Dyke's trial and that of the three other officers hinged on the video, which showed Van Dyke opening fire within seconds of getting out of his po-

lice SUV and continuing to shoot the 17-year-old while he was lying on the street. Police were responding to a report of a male who was breaking into trucks and stealing radios on the city's South Side. □

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UN health chief orders probe into misconduct

By MARIA CHENG

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The head of the World Health Organization has ordered an internal investigation into allegations the U.N. health agency is rife with racism, sexism and corruption, after a series of anonymous emails with the explosive charges were sent to top managers last year.

Three emails addressed to WHO directors — and obtained by the Associated Press — complained about "systematic racial discrimination" against African staffers and alleged other instances of wrongdoing, including claims that some of the money intended to fight Ebola in Congo was misspent.

Last month, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told staffers he had instructed the head of WHO's office of internal oversight to look into the charges raised by the emails. He confirmed that directive to the AP on Thursday.

A WHO statement issued after the AP story was pub-



In this Tuesday Aug. 14, 2018 file photo, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), speaks during a press conference at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland

Associated Press

lished said the agency was "aware" of such allegations and has "zero tolerance for misconduct or discrimination of any kind." The statement said Tedros has "championed openness, transparency and diversity" since he became WHO's

chief.

However, critics doubt that WHO can effectively investigate itself and have called for the probe to be made public.

The first email, which was sent last April, claimed there was "systematic racial discrimination against Africans at WHO" and that African staffers were being "abused, sworn at (and) shown contempt to" by their Geneva-based colleagues.

Two further emails addressed to WHO directors complained that senior officials were "attempting to stifle" investigations into such problems and also alleged other instances of wrongdoing, including allegedly misspent Ebola funds.

The last email, sent in December, labeled the behavior of a senior doctor helping to lead the response against Ebola as "unacceptable, unprofessional and racist," citing a November incident at a meeting where the doctor reportedly "humiliated, disgraced and belittled" a subordinate from the Middle East.

Tedros — a former health minister of Ethiopia and WHO's first African director-general — said investigators looking into the charg-

es "have all my support" and that he would provide more resources if necessary.

"To those that are giving us feedback, thank you," he told a meeting of WHO's country representatives in Nairobi last month.

"We will do everything to correct (it) if there are problems."

But Tedros refuted claims that WHO's hiring policies are skewed, arguing that his top management team was more geographically diverse and gender-balanced than any other U.N. organization after adopting measures to be more inclusive.

"There is change already happening," he said during the December staff meeting, according to an audio recording provided to the AP.

WHO's in-house investigation into misconduct comes after other U.N. agencies have been rocked by harassment complaints.

At UNAIDS, chief Michel Sidibe agreed to step down after an independent report concluded in December that his "defective leadership" had created a toxic working environment, with staffers asserting there was rampant sexual harassment, bullying and abuse of power.

The author of the anonymous WHO emails also charged there were "crooked recruitment and selection" processes that were "tantamount to fraud, corruption and abuse of authority."

In the latest anonymous message, the author singled out the supposedly flawed hiring process of a senior director in WHO's emergencies department, suggesting that might have led to mistakes being made by incompetent officials involved in efforts to stop Ebola in Congo.

Some staffers feared that funds donated to stem the spread of the deadly virus "have not been used judiciously," the email said, warning such blunders could undermine WHO's credibility.

"A plane was hired to transport three vehicles from the warehouse in Dubai at the cost of \$1 million. Why would WHO ship vehicles from Dubai? We would appreciate the rationale when jeeps in DRC (Congo) can be purchased at \$80,000 per vehicle," the email said, claiming that "corruption stories about logisticians and procurement in WHO's (Geneva emergencies department) are legendary."

Sarah Russell, a WHO spokeswoman, said WHO shipped 10 vehicles out of Dubai last May because there were no vehicles available for sale in Congo that met minimum safety standards at the time. She said it cost \$237,801 to transport them.

David Webb, director of WHO's office of internal oversight, told staffers that Tedros had asked him "to conduct an appropriate investigation" into the issues raised in the emails. Webb said he and his team would scrutinize those accusations, in addition to the approximately 150 other claims that have been reported to his office this year.

"My team is trying their best to go to DRC (Congo), to go to where the allegations are with an effort to find the facts," he said. □



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ARUBA WINE & DINE

Italy's Berlusconi rebounds again to run for EU parliament

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Silvio Berlusconi is back. Again.

The three-time Italian premier, who has made a career out of rebounding from legal woes, personal scandal, heart trouble and political setbacks, announced Thursday he is running for the European Parliament in May elections.

The 82-year-old Berlusconi said he wanted to "bring my voice to a Europe that should change, a Europe that has lost profound thinking about the world."

Berlusconi had been barred from running for public office for nearly five years due to a tax fraud conviction. Citing his good conduct, a court last year ruled that he could once again run.

Berlusconi's Forza Italia party, which dominated Italian politics for a quarter-century, is now polling in single



Former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi waves during a visit to Monserrato, near Cagliari, Italy, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

digits behind the two parties in western Europe's first populist government, the right-wing League and the

anti-establishment 5-Stars. He announced his campaign on the same day Italy's government unveiled

details of how it intends to fulfill two campaign promises made by the coalition parties: providing a basic

income to needy Italians looking for work and reforming unpopular pension regulations.

At a press conference in Rome, Deputy Premier Luigi Di Maio proudly announced the government had "founded a new welfare state in Italy...a revolution in the world of work."

Media mogul Berlusconi stressed in his first campaign remarks that he wanted to see a united center-right in Europe. It was evidence of his continued hope that the League, which was a junior partner in all his governments, would eventually abandon the 5-Stars at the national level and come back to the traditional center-right fold.

"A center-right that is united and victorious, with its values and ideals, is the future of Italy, Europe and the world," Berlusconi said in Sardinia, where he keeps a huge estate. □

Striking Greek school teachers shut down traffic in Athens

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Striking school teachers and other Greek civil servants shut down central Athens for hours Thursday during a protest of new hiring criteria for teachers that were under consideration in parliament.

About 3,000 people took part in the protest outside the parliament building, disrupting public transportation for about five hours while police diverted traffic away from Syntagma Square. They planned to

stay until lawmakers voted on the proposed hiring system.

Greece's left-wing government has promised to hire 15,000 full-time teachers over the next three years, starting this fall. Unions say the hiring system is unfairly weighted against teachers who have worked for years on short-time contracts. They also want more teachers to be hired.

The umbrella civil servants' union, Adedy, called a 24-hour public sector strike for Thursday to back the

teachers' demands, although the walkout mainly affected schools. Classes were canceled in most public schools in Athens and many were elsewhere in Greece.

A few dozen protesters briefly clashed with police officers blocking their access to parliament, but no injuries or arrests were reported. Teachers previously held two protest marches in Athens over the hiring plan. Both resulted in clashes between some demonstrators and riot police. □



School teachers protest in central Athens, on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019. Hundreds of striking Greek civil servants, mostly school teachers, are marching through central Athens to protest the proposed new hiring criteria for state school teachers.

Associated Press

Ukraine OKs property law that could affect 12,000 churches

Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Ukraine's parliament on Thursday adopted a bill spelling out procedures for transferring church property after a new unified Ukrainian Orthodox church was granted independence. The bill could potentially affect some 12,000 churches in Ukraine and vast amounts of property, including the gems of Orthodox Christianity like the vast Pechersk Monastery in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev. The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople earlier this month granted independence to a new Ukrainian Orthodox Church, formally severing its centuries-long ties with the Russian Orthodox Church. The move forces clergy and believers in Ukraine to choose between belonging to Moscow-backed churches or the new Ukrainian one. Until the decree, the Orthodox church that enjoyed

wide autonomy under the Russian Orthodox Church was considered legitimate and two others in Ukraine were regarded as schismatic. The new church unites the two formerly schismatic bodies. Many Ukrainians had resented the status of the Moscow-affiliated church. The push for a full-fledged Ukrainian church was bolstered by Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and fighting in eastern Ukraine between government forces and Russia-backed rebels that has killed at least 10,000 people. The Supreme Rada on Thursday voted for the bill that spells out the procedures for transferring church property if a parish decides to join a new church. The bill has yet to be signed by the president. The Russian Orthodox Church has staunchly opposed the creation of the new Ukrainian church,



Metropolitan Epiphanius, the head of the independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church, leads the Christmas service in the St. Sophia Cathedral in Kiev, Ukraine, Monday, Jan. 7, 2019.

Associated Press

warning of sectarian violence. The first reading of the bill, which allowed for a transfer of property by a ma-

jority vote and a show of hands, caused concerns in the European Union. The bill that was voted on Thursday requires two-thirds

of a parish to put their signatures on a vote to join another community. If the vote is not unanimous, that part of the community that prefers to stay with the Russia-affiliated church should be allowed to rent the premises and use them for their own rites. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, who spearheaded efforts to make the Ukrainian church independent, hailed the vote at the Supreme Rada, saying that it will prevent "bloodshed." He said over 100 parishes have already indicated their intention to join the new church. Poroshenko, who has been touring the country in recent weeks with the Tomos, a scroll containing the independence decree, has been criticized for using the church split with Moscow to boost his popularity. He is expected to seek re-election in the March 31 presidential vote. □

Vladimir Putin gets lavish welcome on visit to ally Serbia

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC

Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Vladimir Putin received a hero's welcome in ally Serbia on Thursday as the Russian president attempted to maintain political and economic influence in the Balkans, which is increasingly looking Westward. Putin's presidential plane was escorted over Serbian airspace by MiG-29 fighter jets he recently donated to Serbia as he arrived for the one-day visit. Church bells tolled, guns saluted and people waved Russian and Serbian flags on Putin's route through the Serbian capital, Belgrade. Serbia has maintained close links with traditional Slavic ally Russia despite formally seeking European Union membership. It has refused to join Western sanctions against Russia over Ukraine and has pledged to stay out of NATO. Putin has recently stepped up efforts to restore Moscow's influence in the for-



Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, right, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, attend an official welcome ceremony prior to their talks in Belgrade, Serbia, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

mer communist countries of Eastern Europe. Putin and his host, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, praised the relationship between the two countries. Putin handed a top Russian honor to Vucic, who gave a puppy of a Serb dog breed to the Russian president. Vucic thanked Russia for its support for Serbia's claim over Kosovo, a former province that declared

independence in 2008, and added that "however small," Serbia has been a "reliable partner" to Russia. Several bilateral agreements were signed, including on the supply of Russian gas and weapons to Serbia. On the gas, Putin said Russian companies are ready to invest about \$1.4 billion into a stretch of a pipeline that would go from Turkey via EU-member Bulgaria

to Serbia and then on to Hungary, "but in the end, everything will depend on other countries, including the European Union." Putin's visit come as thousands have been holding weekly demonstrations against Vucic because of what they see as his autocratic rule. Tens of thousands of Vucic's right-wing party supporters were bused into the capital on Thursday to gather in front of the St. Sava Orthodox church, which the two presidents visited. They were chanting slogans including "Serbia-Russia, we don't need the European Union!" Vucic's critics say the gathering was staged to suggest that the Serbian leader has many more supporters than opponents, who have been marching the same route since December to demand free elections and media. Several liberal Serbian rights groups issued a statement on Thursday protesting "glorification of Vladimir Putin's

authoritarian regime." It said that Putin's visit "indicates that the Serbian rulers are ready to sacrifice human rights and better living standards of citizens because of their servile attitude toward Putin's regime." Russia's interest in Serbia relates to its strategic position between East and West. Of Serbia's eight neighbors, five are NATO members and two more are seeking membership; and four are in the EU and two more are working toward accession. Serbia remains Moscow's only ally in the region. Unlike NATO, Putin formally does not oppose Serbia's EU path and analysts believe that this is because he wants a staunch ally — or perhaps a Trojan horse — within the 28-nation bloc. Putin's popularity in Serbia is mostly because the Kremlin is supporting Serbia in its rejection of Kosovo's independence. In contrast, most Western countries have recognized Kosovo's statehood. □



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BOJ warns Japan faces new risks as population shrinks

By KAORI HITOMI
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan faces unforeseen risks in guiding economic policy as its population of about 126 million ages and declines, the governor of its central bank said Thursday.

Bank of Japan Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda told fellow financial leaders Thursday that policies must be devised to prevent the shrinking population from hindering economic growth.

Since taking his post in April 2013, Kuroda has flooded Japan's economy with cash through central bank asset purchases to help fight deflation and keep the economy growing. The BOJ also imposed a negative interest rate policy to

keep lending costs ultralow in the longer term.

The conventional strategy of controlling short-term interest rates to keep inflation in check while stimulating business activity is well understood, Kuroda said. But he warned that the unconventional methods the Bank of Japan has adopted can have unexpected consequences.

Kuroda has repeatedly emphasized the limits to what the central bank can do to promote sustained growth in an age of rising national debt and feeble consumer demand. He has urged the government to push ahead with labor and other reforms to help achieve faster growth and attain the government's inflation



Bank of Japan Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda delivers a speech at a symposium in Tokyo Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

target of about 2 percent. Kuroda said one of the potential pitfalls of the current policies could be if banks use cheap credit to seek higher yielding, high-risk investments harmful to financial stability.

"Policymakers need to manage prudential policy appropriately, taking into account the fact that the risk profiles of financial institutions could be dramatically transformed during times of demographic

change," he said.

Japan's population began shrinking several years ago and is rapidly aging. That has discouraged companies from investing and hiring within Japan, while they direct their efforts toward faster growing overseas markets.

On the other hand, aging populations create new markets for many products and services, so there are positives along with the challenges, he added.

Kuroda and other senior financial officials were speaking at a seminar linked to Japan's hosting of the Group of 20 major economies in 2019. The G-20 summit is due to be held in Osaka later this year. □

Taiwan holds live-fire exercises following China threats

By JOHNSON LAI
Associated Press

HSINCHU, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan held live-fire exercises along its east coast Thursday amid renewed threats from China to bring the island under its control by force if deemed necessary.

Artillery and assault helicopters fired at targets off the west coast city of Taichung, while French-made Mirage fighter jets took off amid rainy conditions from the air base at Hsinchu to the north.

The drills are Taiwan's first since Chinese President Xi Jinping on Jan. 2 reasserted Beijing's willingness to use military force to bring self-ruling Taiwan under Chinese control.

The drills also follow a new Pentagon report laying out U.S. concerns about Chi-

na's growing military might, underscoring worries about a possible attack against Taiwan.

Taiwan's independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen has made national defense a priority while refusing China's demand that she recognize Taiwan as a part of China. That's led to Beijing ratcheting up economic, military and diplomatic pressure on the island of 23 million.

In a meeting with U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson in Beijing on Tuesday, China's Chief of Staff Li Zuocheng issued a warning against foreign forces coming to Taiwan's assistance. The U.S. is Taiwan's chief source of military hardware and is legally bound to respond to threats against its security. China's military will "pay

any price" to ensure China's sovereignty, Li told Richardson at their Tuesday meeting. China considers Taiwan, which split from the mainland amid civil war in 1949, as an integral part of Chinese territory. U.S.-China relations have become increasingly frayed on the military and economic fronts over the past year. President Donald Trump imposed tariff increases of up to 25 percent on \$250 billion of Chinese imports over complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. Xi responded by imposing penalties on \$110 billion of American goods. And last year the Pentagon disinvited China to a major, multinational Pacific exercise, citing Beijing's militarization of man-made islands in the South China Sea. □



M60A3 Patton tanks move during a military exercises in Taichung, central Taiwan, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

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9 dead in car bombing at police academy in Colombia capital

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — At least nine people were killed and dozens more injured in a car bombing at a heavily guarded police academy in Colombia's capital on Thursday, recalling the high-profile attacks seen during the bloodiest chapters of the country's drug-fueled guerrilla conflict.

The scene outside the General Santander police academy in southern Bogota was chaotic in the immediate aftermath of the midmorning attack, the biggest against a police or military facility in the capital in years.

Videos circulating on social media show panicked police officers carrying injured colleagues on stretchers along a road strewn with debris and body parts. In the distance, the skeletal steel remains of the truck used in the attack can be seen still burning while approaching ambulances blare.

President Ivan Duque rushed back to the capital with his top military advisers from a visit to a western state to oversee the police investigation.

Chief Prosecutor Nestor Martinez said a man named Jose Aldemar Rojas driving a 1993 Nissan pick-up loaded with 80 kilograms (175



Family members of victims of a bombing gather outside the entrance to the General Santander police academy where the bombing took place in Bogota, Colombia, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

pounds) of pentolite carried out the attack. He said the car had its last official mechanical revision some six months ago in the eastern state of Arauca, along the border with Venezuela. "This is an attack not only against the young, the security forces or the police. It's an attack against society," Duque said in a brief statement after surveying the blast scene. "This demented terrorist act will not

go unpunished."

The police said at least nine people were killed, while Bogota's health department said another 54 were injured. Among the dead were a Panamanian and an Ecuadorian national. Rafael Trujillo said he was delivering a care package to his son Gerson, who entered the school just two days ago, when he was stopped in his tracks by the blast that destroyed win-

dows in apartment buildings as far as four blocks away.

"I'm sad and very worried because I don't have any information about my son," said Trujillo, standing outside the facility, where police officers had set up a taped perimeter as forensic specialists surveyed the blast site.

Authorities were at a loss to explain how the vehicle slipped through a gate per-

manently protected by explosive-sniffing dogs, heavily-armed guards and security cameras. But there were unconfirmed reports based on leaked recordings of phone conversations of officers on the scene that the driver rammed past the checkpoint as if carrying out a suicide attack — something unprecedented in decades of political violence in Colombia.

Health authorities in Bogota appealed for residents to donate blood at one of four collection points in the capital to help treat those injured, the majority of whom were rushed to a police hospital.

For decades, residents of Bogota lived in fear of being caught in a bombing by leftist rebels or Pablo Escobar's Medellin drug cartel. But as Colombia's conflict has wound down, security has improved and residents have lowered their guard.

While authorities had yet to suggest who was behind the attack, and no armed group claimed responsibility, attention was focused on leftist rebels from the National Liberation Army, which has been stepping up attacks on police targets in Colombia amid a standoff with the conservative Duque over how to restart stalled peace talks. □

Unbearable stench: Giant sewage spill befouls Peru's capital



City water workers drain a street filled with sewage water in the San Juan de Lurigancho district of Lima, Peru, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019.

Associated Press

Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Amid an unbearable stench, thousands of workers, po-

lice and soldiers struggled Wednesday to contain and clean up a flood of sewage that has caused

the government to declare a health emergency in one of the most populous parts of Peru's capital.

The foul flood was caused by a blockage in a giant pipe that collects 80 percent of the sewage in the San Juan de Lurigancho district. Adding a political element, the pipe was relocated about six years ago by Odebrecht, the Brazilian construction giant that is at the heart of a corruption scandal engulfing elites across Latin America, including Peru.

"It has become clogged: strange material has entered the collector," said President Martin Vizcarra, who pledged to find those responsible and declared a health emergency.

Vizcarra said the pipe is buried at a depth of nine meters (30 feet) and it "began to sink," with dirty water flowing into low-lying areas of San Juan de Lurigancho, which has more than 1 million inhabitants.

More than 100 police officers rode horses through the waters while dozens of giant suction machines pulled up sewage.

Maria Cruz, 80, cried as she used a bucket of clean water to wash two small dolls that had adorned the top of her wedding cake decades ago.

"You can't even breathe here," she said.

The flooding began Sunday when millions of liters (gallons) of sewage spilled across more than eight

hectares (20 acres) of the borough, reaching depths of two meters (6½ feet), officials said.

"We are worried by the pollution," said resident Oswaldo Vasquez. Neighbors complained of dirty water coming out of their taps and toilets.

While officials have not yet determined who is responsible for the flooding, Vizcarra said the builder of a public works project is responsible for any defect in it for the next seven years.

"And this project doesn't have seven years," he added.

Mayra Cardenas of the communications office of Odebrecht's office in Peru said: "We will not comment." □

LOCAL



Aruba Resort advances In 2019 World Travel & Tourism Council Awards

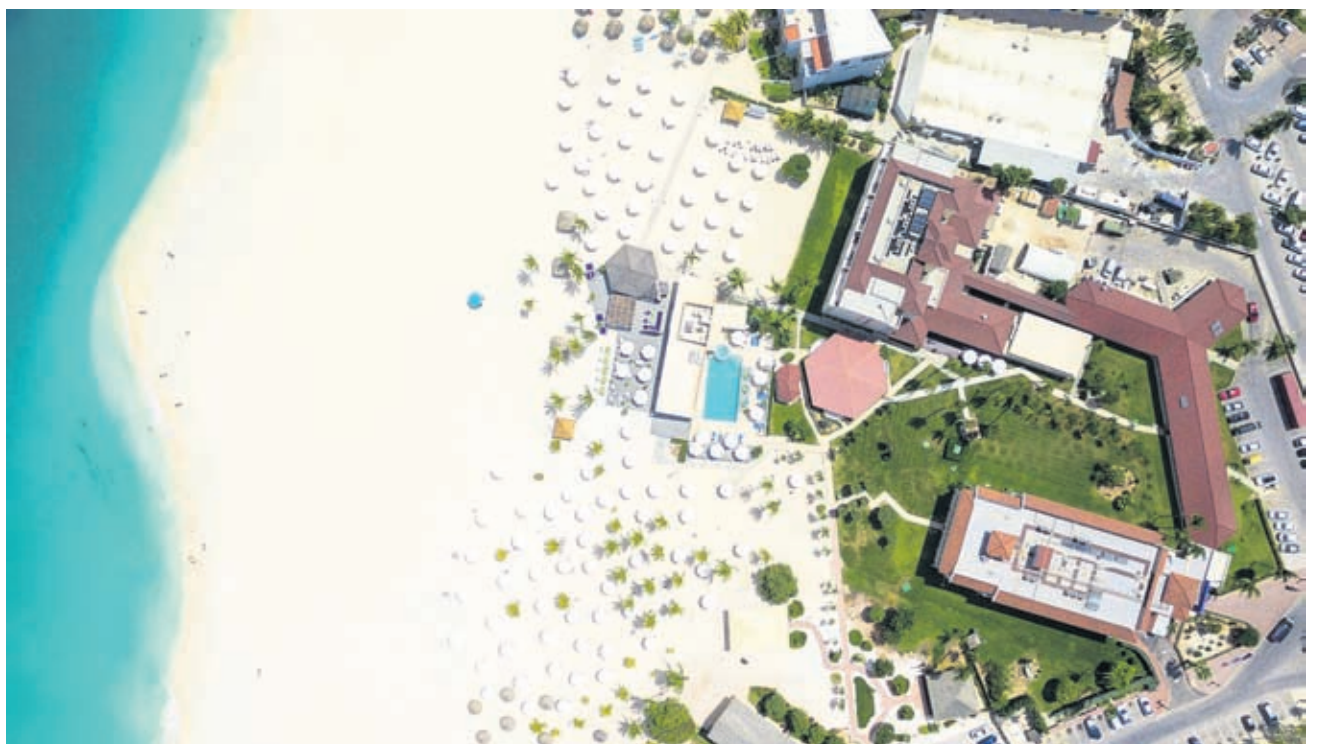
EAGLE BEACH — The World Travel & Tourism Council announced the shortlist of finalists in the world who are up for receiving its 2019 Tourism for Tomorrow – Climate Action Award. Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort is thrilled to be one of the three organizations. An evaluator will soon be visiting the Aruba resort for the last component of judging before the global award is announced in early April in Spain.

Bucuti & Tara is one of only three contenders worldwide for the Climate Action award category. This WTTC Tourism for Tomorrow category recognizes organizations undertaking significant and measurable work to reduce the scale and impact of climate change. In August 2018, the Eagle Beach property became the Caribbean's first certified carbon neutral resort. The pinnacle achievement came after years of steady, conscientious sustainability initiatives leading it to become the Caribbean's most eco-certified resort. According to the WTTC website, it's Tourism for Tomorrow Awards are the world's top accolade in sustainable tourism. They recognize the highest ethical standards in the major tourism sector, and are respected by industry leaders, governments and international media, alike. The Awards recognize best practices in sustainable tourism within the industry globally, based upon the principles of environmentally friendly operations; support for the protection of cultural and natural heritage; and direct benefits to the social and economic well-being of local people in travel destinations around the world.

Next, a WTTC judge will visit Bucuti & Tara to perform an in-depth evaluation. The winners will be announced April 2-4, 2019 at the WTTC Global Summit in Seville, Spain.

"Our Bucuti associates, our guests, vendors and community have joined our commitment in taking action against climate change and we are honored to have Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort proceed to the finalists' round of the World Travel & Tourism Council's 2019 Tourism for Tomorrow Awards," says Ewald Biemans, owner/CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. "Together, we can change the world right where we are standing."

To learn more, visit Bucuti.com. □



Today's Catch Aruba fishing report January 2019

By Joris Zantvoort

ORANJESTAD — For most destinations, the cold winter months bring a slower fishing season. Luckily, Aruba is not like most destinations. Not even close. With water temperatures averaging out around 79 °F (26 °C), Aruba is the perfect winter fishing getaway.

January is traditionally an amazing time for pelagics like Wahoo and Barracuda, and this year is no different. Captain Dennis Robles aboard the Lady Sarah fleet has been reeling these monsters in with great success.

The unique geography around Aruba allows you to get to the fishing grounds within minutes of leaving

the coast, which means that the big boys will be right on your doorstep. You can expect to catch Blackfin and Yellowfin Tuna on a six hour trip.

If you'd like to go further offshore, fishing on the northern side of the island will put you on some hard fighting Blue and White Marlin. Don't be surprised if you catch a few Wahoo on your way. To maximize your chances of catching a bucket lister, go for an eight hour outing.

The reefs are teeming with Snapper in January, and you can easily catch a boatload of them on a four hour outing. In addition, you'll get a tasty dinner out of it. As for Goliath Grouper fishing, a four hour trip will



probably give you more action than your arms can handle.

sunscreen and snacks and prepare for the catch of a lifetime!

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Travel Tips

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1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on www.airportaruba.com.

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Welcome to Cuba: an unforgettable culinary experience! Renaissance Aruba presents 'Havana Nights'

ORANJESTAD - Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino continues the journey around the culinary world. Next stop: Cuba! This year too, the aficionado can enjoy a series of Pop-up restaurants at Renaissance, each of which has a different and authentic character. 'Havana Nights', where the guest

is taken on a journey through the historic streets of Cuba, promises to be an extraordinary Pop-up.

Havana Nights!

Welcome to Cuba! Havana Nights is the first Pop-up Restaurant of 2019 and will take place on January the 18th and 19th at the Upper



Pool Deck of the Renaissance Marina Hotel. Get ready for an exclusive Cuban evening. One of the specific changes to this pop-up is that only dinner will be presented, and with limited capacity. The guest will enjoy all that the Cuban cuisine has to offer for only \$ 85 per person (excluding service charge). This includes a Cuban family style dinner, an Open Mojito Bar with different Mojito flavors, presented by Ron Caney, rum tasting where different rum flavors can be savored and the icing on this

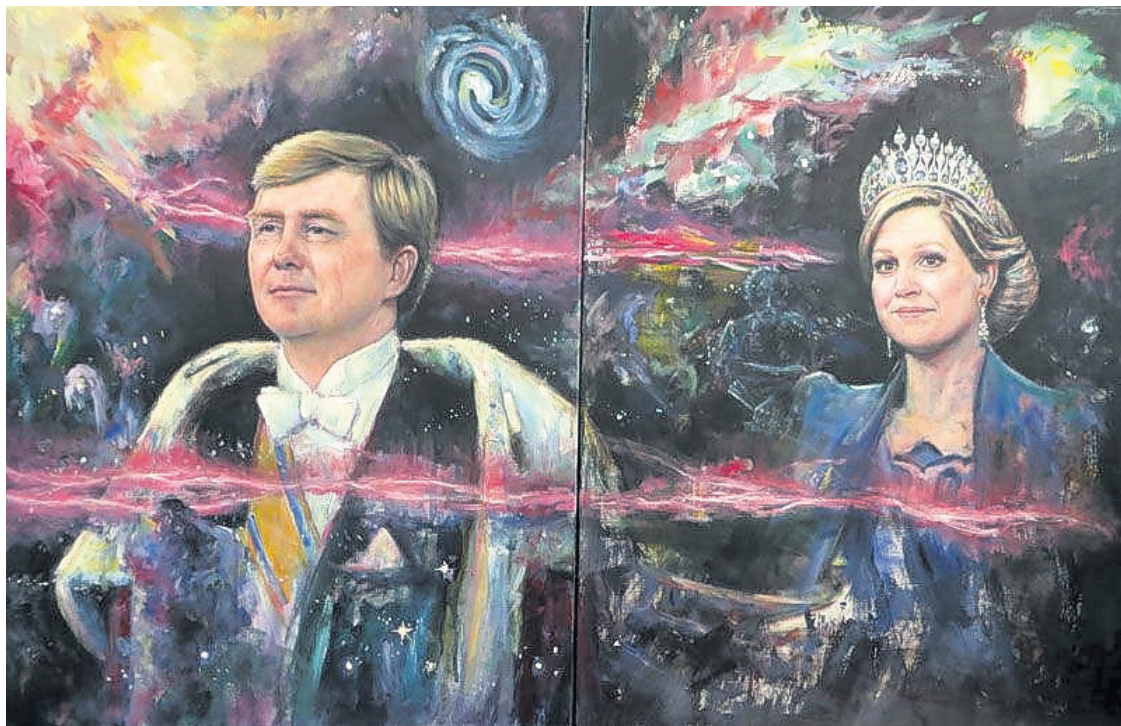
'Cuban' cake, 'live' music by Trio Yalorde, directly from Curaçao! Especially for this event, Cigar Emporium Aruba, Aruba's cigar house, will give all guests a 'Romeo & Juliet' as a welcome gift. Cigar Emporium Aruba will present a different selection for each evening of 'Havana Nights'.

Given that it is a new concept in the pop-up series, only prepaid reservations will be processed. There are limited seats, so make your reservations by contacting the Renaissance Navigator via 523.6115. □

Caribbean top-artists exhibit in Holland at 'ARToMoNDo'.

NETHERLANDS — A special exhibition, in the context of 'Art & Culture Relay for Sint Maarten', now goes to AR-ToMoNDo in Deventer, The Netherlands. This exhibition is part of the 'Art & Culture relay for the St. Maarten section', organized by Dutch Orange Company BV.

After the presentation of some top artists from the Caribbean parts of the Netherlands in The Hague and the first exhibition in Delft in gallery 'Art at the Quay', opened by the Plenipotentiary minister of Sint Maarten, Mrs. Dr. Jorien Wuite, it is now Deventer's turn. On King's Day 2018, Mr. Simon Boon, chairman of Dutch Orange



Company BV and Stichting OranjeFeesten, started this 'Art & Culture Relay for St. Maarten' in Apeldoorn, as an aid for the cultural sector of St. Maarten, after

the devastating hurricane Irma, the most disastrous hurricane in its history.

Ministers, press and representatives from all parts of the government will be invited for the private preview on Thursday 21 February. Prime Minister of St. Maarten, Mrs. Leona Marlin-Romeo, is officially visiting the Netherlands during this period, and is prepared to give an opening speech in Deventer, together with her Minister Plenipotentiary. This is to draw maximum attention to the 'Art & Culture Estafette for St. Maarten' and to this special exhibition. A positive contribution from the Overseas Territories, at the highest level...

The exhibitors Sir Roland Richardson, Tess Verheij, Melvin Anderson, Bikkel and Gustave Nouel are among the most renowned and / or internationally recognized artists of the Overseas Territories. From Friday 22 February to 16 March 2019, this exhibition in Deventer will be on show in gallery / studio / shop ARToMoNDo, Nieuwstraat 20, in the heart of Deventer. Opening hours from Tuesday to Friday from 9 am to 4.30 pm. After this presentation, this traveling exhibition will be on display in the 'Grote Kerk' of Apeldoorn. □



Cultural Exchange between Islands

This beautiful Orange campaign for the cultural sector of St. Maarten can count on support from various authorities, from the Royal Association of Orange Associations (KBOV) and from various other sponsors, including Royal Talens from Apeldoorn, who not only donated a lot of paint and painting materials to St. Maarten, but also spontaneously offered to be 'partner' to organize workshops in the Netherlands and St. Maarten. This Orange project, together with the Government of St. Maarten, also wants to promote the relevance and added value of cultural exchanges between parts of the Kingdom, at all levels, whereby Royal Talens can be an ideal partner.



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SPORTS



Phil Mickelson waves after making a birdie on the fifth hole during the first round of the Desert Classic golf tournament at La Quinta Country Club on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, in La Quinta, Calif.

Associated Press

Phil Mickelson shoots 12-under 60 at La Quinta in 2019 debut

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) — Phil Mickelson still feels as young as ever. He still plays that way, too.

Mickelson began his 27th full season as a pro Thursday by flirting with one of the few feats he hasn't accomplished — golf's magic number. The 48-year-old left-hander still shot a 12-under 60 in the Desert Classic, tying his career-low score he last shot in the Phoenix Open six years ago. It was the most under par he has been in any of the 2,077 rounds he has played on the PGA Tour.

"It was a kind of a lucky day for me in the sense that I did not feel sharp heading in," Mickelson said. "I haven't really had the intense practice sessions that I would like, but I felt like all parts were OK and it just clicked. Some days you have those days where it just clicked. And the bad shots that I hit, I got away with. I was able to kind of not have the big score."

Continued on Next Page



TALE of 2 QBs



Brady, Mahomes achieve success different ways

On top, in a Dec. 2, 2018, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady directs teammates at the line of scrimmage during an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass. Bottom, in a Jan. 12, 2019, file photo, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) calls a play at the line of scrimmage during the first half of an NFL divisional football playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press
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Halep edges American in Australia; Venus next

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Push Simona Halep to the brink, and she summons her best.

The Australian Open's top-seeded woman got all she could handle from 20-year-old American Sofia Kenin in the second round before taking the last four games to emerge with a 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-4 victory that took 2½ hours Thursday.

"Well, I have no idea how I won this tonight," said Halep, the reigning French Open champion. "It's so tough to explain what happened on court."

A year ago at Melbourne Park, Halep was a point from being eliminated in two matches but came back each time en route to reaching the final. In the first round this year, she was down a set and a break before turning things around. And this time, against a hard-hitting Kenin, Halep trailed 4-2 in the third set and managed to not cede another game.

And that was despite getting what she described as "a little bit injured" in the second set, something that seemed clear from the way she wasn't always able to run with her usual verve.

"Hopefully," said Halep,

whose No. 1 ranking is up for grabs during the Australian Open, "next round I play better."

That third-round matchup will be quite intriguing, because it'll be against seven-time Grand Slam champion and former No. 1 Venus Williams. And the winner of that could face Williams' younger sister, 23-time major champ Serena, in the fourth round.

Venus won a three-setter that finished a little before Halep's did — and in much more emphatic fashion. Pushed to that deciding set by getting broken to end the second, Venus ran away with the win down the stretch, defeating Alize Cornet 6-3, 4-6, 6-0.

So what was the difference in the lopsided third set?

"She was just putting more intensity than me. She was hitting harder, deeper," Cornet said. "I had a little less energy than in the second set and she took advantage of it and really raised her level."

The 38-year-old Venus, unseeded at a major for the first time in five years, was the runner-up in Australia to Serena in 2003 and 2017.

Serena advanced to the third round by beating 2014 Wimbledon finalist Eugenie Bouchard 6-2, 6-2, reeling

off the last five games and 16 of the final 20 points. That match was followed in Rod Laver Arena by No. 1 Novak Djokovic's 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 victory over Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in a rematch of the 2008 final at Melbourne Park.

That one ended in the wee hours of Friday, just after two-time major champion Garbine Muguruza and Johanna Konta got going at 12:30 a.m. in what is believed to be the latest-starting match in tournament history. Muguruza eventually won 6-4, 6-7 (3), 7-5 at 3:12 a.m.

Other winners in the women's draw included reigning U.S. Open champion Naomi Osaka, past U.S. Open runners-up Karolina Pliskova and Madison Keys, No. 27-seeded Camila Giorgi and No. 28 Hsieh Su-Wei.

In men's action, Stan Wawrinka was up a set and was just two points away from taking the second against Milos Raonic. Couldn't do it.

About an hour later, 2014 champion Wawrinka was a single point from grabbing the third set. Denied again. And another hour after that, Wawrinka was two points from seizing the fourth to force a fifth. Nope,



Romania's Simona Halep reacts after defeating United States' Sofia Kenin in their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

not on this afternoon. Wawrinka kept coming oh-so-close, and Raonic kept hanging in there and toughing out the most important moments along the way to a 6-7 (4), 7-6 (6), 7-6 (11), 7-6 (5) victory that put the 16th-seeded Canadian into the third round.

"I missed a few little points," Wawrinka said, "that could have changed the match." So true.

"It feels like 4 hours passed by in about 15 minutes. ...

The adrenaline takes over," said Raonic, the runner-up at Wimbledon in 2016. "I was very fortunate to stay alive in that fourth set."

They were interrupted for about a half-hour while the roof at Rod Laver Arena was shut because of rain at 4-all in the third set.

Raonic thought that helped him quite a bit.

"I do a little bit better indoors than outdoors," he said, "so thank you for raining up there." □



Justin Rose of England, watches his tee shot on the second hole during the first round of the Desert Classic golf tournament at La Quinta Country Club on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, in La Quinta, Calif.

Associated Press

DESERT CLASSIC

Continued from Previous Page
Needing to play the final two holes in 2 under to

shoot 59 on the cloudy, rainy day at La Quinta Country Club, Mickelson missed a 15-foot birdie try

on the par-4 17th before holing a 9-footer for birdie on the par-4 18th.

"I was aware of it," Mickelson said about shooting 59. "I was giving it all I had and I had a good chance. On 17, I hit a nice tee shot in a good spot to kind of hook a sand wedge into that back right pin for me. And I hit a good shot, I had 18 feet though, I should have hit that closer, but still had a good chance to make the putt. Made a good birdie on 18. That's not an easy hole for me, that shot the way it sits along the water."

The round was his first on tour since early October and the first in competition

since beating Tiger Woods in Las Vegas in November in a made-for-TV event.

"I knew it wasn't far off, but it didn't feel like I was ready to go," Mickelson said. "I just felt like I needed to be careful. I felt I played a little bit more conservative." Lefty birdied the first two holes and played the back-to-back par 5s in 3 under with a birdie on No. 5 and a 5-foot eagle putt on No. 6. He added a birdie on the par-4 ninth for a front-nine 30, and birdied the par-4 10th, par-5 11th, par-5 13th and par-4 14th, holing a chip from in front of the 14th green.

"That was an interesting shot because I could have

easily lost one and I ended up picking one up," he said.

He then ran in a 5-footer for birdie on the par-4 16th. The Desert Classic is the only PGA Tour event to yield two sub-60 rounds. David Duval had a 59 at PGA West's PGA West's Palmer Course when he won in 1999. Adam Hadwin shot 59 at La Quinta in 2017.

Top-ranked Justin Rose, also making his 2019 debut, had a 68 at La Quinta — one of three courses used in the event. He's the first No. 1 player to play the tournament since the world ranking began in 1986. □

Pats' Brady, Chiefs' Mahomes achieve success different ways

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —

One of them is a sixth-round pick who married a super-model, became one of the greatest quarterbacks in NFL history and is still going strong well past his 41st birthday.

The other is a first-round pick who is still dating his high school sweetheart, has exactly one season as an NFL starter on his resume and just turned 23 earlier this season.

Indeed, few similarities exist when it comes to Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and Chiefs counterpart Patrick Mahomes, whose teams will meet for the AFC title at Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday.

Brady is the suave star with the polished skillset and more postseason experience than any QB in history, while Mahomes is the sling-it-anywhere standout who just one day may take over the mantle as best in the game.

Both get the job done, even if they do it in very different ways.

"I don't know about comparisons," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "Look, Mahomes is an outstanding player in every facet of the game. He's got a strong arm. He can throw the ball the length of the field. He has great touch. He has the ability to read coverages and extend plays, make good decisions and make explosive plays without taking too much of a risk or putting his team in jeopardy.

"He does all of those things well," Belichick said, "and that's a credit to him."

Brady has a strong arm, too, even if it's not what it once was. He still has great touch and his ability to read coverages may be the best in the game, helping him lead the Patriots to their eighth consecutive AFC title game.

But that is just about where the similarities end.

Brady prefers to stand in the pocket and deliver the ball the same way a blackjack dealer stands behind his table and distributes



cards. He moves around when he's under pressure but rarely takes off running, and he's as likely to chuck the ball into the third row on a broken play as take a risk downfield.

It's an approach that has served him well. Brady's never thrown more than 14 picks in a season.

He also has one of the fastest releases in the NFL, and

More valuable than Brady's physical ability, though, may be his mental acuity. He has an uncanny gift for dissecting a defense, finding the right matchup and exploiting it to the Patriots' benefit.

"I haven't seen any decline," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "He sees things even better than when he was younger. I'm wearing

Chiefs' first-year starter, and he eclipsed 5,000 yards though the air, something his counterpart has accomplished just once.

But perhaps most importantly, he led the Chiefs to a better record than the Patriots to secure home-field advantage, and that means Mahomes will have 80,000 fans behind him with a shot at the Super Bowl on



week against Indianapolis — but is just as dangerous in the passing game, where his knack for keeping his eyes downfield makes him a constant threat.

"The play is never dead. He can find new ways to get you the ball," Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce said. "It may look like a screwball, a slider here or there, but it'll get to you eventually."

It's edge-of-your seat viewing, unless you're on defense.

"I mean, on film you see him not even looking where he's throwing," Patriots linebacker Dont'a Hightower marveled, "and he's able to hit it, too. He's a very accurate quarterback."

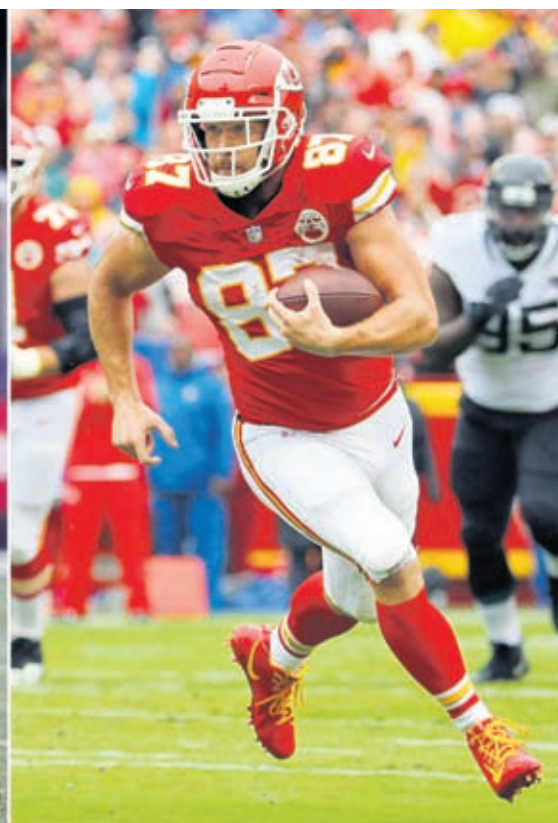
And his arm strength is the stuff of legends.

"His skillset alone is (unique)," Hightower said. "He's not as crafty as Aaron Rodgers, but Aaron does a great job, as well, as far as extending plays and not looking to run, but looking to get guys uncovered or moving with their eyes. There's not a lot of quarterbacks that have that in their skillset."

There's another skill that Brady and Mahomes share, and it's one that might be rather unexpected given the vast difference in age and experience: leadership ability. Brady has developed it through success. Mahomes has established it with his demeanor.

Different approaches, similar results. "We play against great players every week. They come in different shapes and sizes and different skillsets, but they're all good in their own way. They all can create problems for us or the opponent, us in this case," Belichick said. "Again, we'll do the best we can this week to try to defend what we can defend." □

Associated Press



At left, in a Sept. 23, 2018, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady throws during the first half of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, in Detroit. At right, in an Oct. 7, 2018, file photo, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) throws a pass during the first half of an NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, in Kansas City, Mo.

Chiefs linebacker Justin Houston said Wednesday that getting Brady in third-and-long is perhaps the most crucial point in stopping him.

"Because if it's third-and-short," Houston said, "the ball's coming out fast."

glasses and he isn't. The age hasn't hit him. He's just an amazing guy."

Then again, so is the kid with the moppy Mohawk standing across from him Sunday. Mahomes matched Brady's best season by throwing 50 touchdown passes as the

the line.

He's given them plenty of thrills already this season.

Unlike Brady, Mahomes thrives when everything collapses around him. He'll throw caution to the wind and run for a first down — or a touchdown as he did last



Sean Couturier has hat trick, Flyers beat Bruins 4-3

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Sean Couturier had a hat trick, Carter Hart stopped 39 shots and the Philadelphia Flyers beat the Boston Bruins 4-3 on Wednesday night. Couturier scored twice within 90 seconds in the second period and sealed the win with his 19th goal late in the third for his first career regular-season hat trick after doing it twice in the playoffs. He gave the Flyers hat tricks in consecutive games after James van Riemsdyk did it Monday night. Oskar Lindblom also scored, with Claude Giroux getting his 500th assist to join Hall of Famer Bobby Clarke (852) as the only Flyers to hit that milestone. Peter Cehlarik scored twice in his first game of the season and David Pastrnak added a goal for Boston.

COYOTES 6, SHARKS 3

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Christian Fischer had a goal and an assist, Richard Panik scored Arizona's 12th short-handed goal of the season and the Coyotes snapped San Jose's seven-game winning streak. Oliver Ekman-Larsson, Lawson Crouse, Alex Galchenyuk and Josh Archibald also scored for the



Philadelphia Flyers' Sean Couturier, center, skates off the ice after scoring his third goal of the night against Boston Bruins' Jaroslav Halak, right, during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Coyotes, the last two coming after the Sharks pulled goalie Aaron Dell in the final two minutes. Darcy Kuemper made 26 saves for Arizona, extending his winning streak to

four games. Kevin Labanc had a goal and two assists, Evander Kane got his 17th goal and Logan Couture scored for the Sharks, who were playing the second of back-to-

back games after beating Pittsburgh at home Tuesday. The Sharks had not lost since falling 8-5 to Calgary on New Year's Eve and had given up only 10 goals in

their last six games.

SABRES 4, FLAMES 3, OT

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Jack Eichel scored at 1:10 of overtime to lift Buffalo past Calgary. Seconds after putting a backhand off the post, the Buffalo captain beat goalie Dave Rittich with a low shot to the glove side. Jake McCabe, Evan Rodrigues and Rasmus Dahlin also scored and Linus Ullmark made 30 saves to help Buffalo snap a four-game skid and end Calgary's five-game winning streak. Johnny Gaudreau had a goal and an assist for the Flames, and Matthew Tkachuk and Noah Hanifin also scored. Rittich made 19 saves.

SENATORS 5, AVALANCHE 2

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Matt Duchene had two goals and an assist against his former club and Ottawa beat Colorado for its first home victory since Dec. 17. Duchene returned after missing three games for the birth of his first son.

Brady Tkachuk, Mark Stone and Ryan Dzingel also scored for the Senators, and Anders Nilsson made 30 saves. Nikita Zadorov and Nathan MacKinnon scored for Colorado. □

NHL, NHLPA abandon hope of a World Cup in September 2020

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

The NHL and NHL Players' Association have given up on the possibility of staging the next World Cup of Hockey in September 2020 but will continue collective bargaining talks. The league and PA announced the conclusion in separate statements Wednesday that there's not enough time to put together a World Cup in roughly 20 months. The sides met earlier in the day in Toronto to discuss the World Cup as part of collective bargaining talks after holding an informal meeting in Las Vegas on Jan. 10 that lasted more than two hours. Not holding the World Cup in September 2020 is consequential because it was so



In this Jan. 24, 2015, file photo, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, center, and NHL Players' Association Executive Director Donald Fehr, left, listen to Chicago Blackhawks' Patrick Kane, right, after announcing in Columbus, Ohio, the return of the World Cup of Hockey in 2016 at Toronto.

Associated Press

closely linked to the potential of labor peace in hockey. But the NHL and NHLPA plan to meet again soon with the goal of avoiding

a potential work stoppage. A lockout wiped out the 2004-05 season and lasted more than three months in 2012-13.

The current CBA runs until 2022, but either owners or players could choose this September to opt out and end it Sept. 15, 2020. Players' escrow payments and Olympic participation are significant issues that must be overcome to avoid either side electing to reopen the CBA. Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly told The Associated Press last week he believed there was a commitment by both sides to continue talking and "see if we can move forward on something that might work for a CBA extension." "While the parties have now joined the concluded that it is no longer realistic to try to schedule a World Cup of Hockey for the fall of 2020, they plan to continue their

dialogue with the hope of being able to schedule the next World Cup event as part of a broader agreement, which would include a long-term international event calendar," the NHL said in a statement. The 2016 World Cup of Hockey generated revenue that was split evenly among owners and players, and the goal is to keep that event going with another edition at a time later than September 2020. "The players are focused on finding the proper time to schedule the World Cup of Hockey within the context of an overall international hockey calendar," the NHL-PA said in a statement. "We look forward to continuing our discussions with the league." □

James Harden has 58 points in Rockets' OT loss to Nets

By The Associated Press
HOUSTON (AP) — Spencer Dinwiddie scored 25 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter and overtime and the Brooklyn Nets spoiled James Harden's 58-point night with a 145-142 victory over the Houston Rockets on Wednesday.

Harden had his second straight season high after scoring 57 in a victory over Memphis on Monday night, but was only 5 of 19 from 3-point range. The Rockets shot an NBA-record 70 3s, making just 23.

Harden has scored at least 30 points in 18 straight games and has reached 40 in nine of the last 12. He was 16 of 34 overall from the field, made 21 of 23 free throws and had 10 rebounds and six assists.

Dinwiddie forced overtime, making three 3-pointers in the last 30 seconds of regulation. In the extra period, he hit the go-ahead basket with 28 seconds left.

Houston had a chance to tie it at the buzzer, but Gerald Green's shot clanged off the rim. After Houston blew an 11-point lead, Harden's 3-point attempt bounced off the rim to send it to overtime.

The Rockets broke their own record for 3-point attempts after shooting 61 against New Orleans on Dec. 16, 2016. Houston also holds the record for most 3-pointers made after hitting 26 in a win over Washington this season. Green, who did not attempt a 2-point basket, made 5 of 15.

WARRIORS 147, PELICANS 140

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry scored 41 points with nine 3-pointers to become the first player in NBA history to make eight or more 3s in three straight games, and the Warriors held off the Pelicans for their sixth straight win.

Pelicans star Anthony Davis went down hard beneath the Warriors basket with 2:22 left but was able to walk off after a few minutes and quickly returned. Davis had 30 points, 18 rebounds, seven assists and three blocks in nearly 41 minutes for New Orleans, coming off a 46-point and 16-rebound gem Monday night despite starting 0 for 5 with just four points in the first quarter. Nikola Mirotic scored 29 points, Jrue Holiday added 25 points and seven assists while Elfrid Payton dished out 12 assists.

The Pelicans and Warriors combined for an NBA-record 43 3s, breaking the mark by two that Sacramento and Golden State accomplished Jan. 5 at Golden 1 Center.

CELTICS 117, RAPTORS 108
BOSTON (AP) — Kyrie Irving hit a foul-line fadeaway to give Boston the lead, then made a 31-foot 3-pointer to finish with 27 points and lead the Celtics past Toronto.

Returning after missing the last game with a bruised right leg, Irving had 10 points and six of his career-high 18 assist in the fourth quarter — including passes to set up Boston's last three baskets in a game-ending 17-4 run. Al Horford scored

24 points to help Boston rebound from three straight road losses.

Kawhi Leonard scored 33 points, and Serge Ibaka had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors.

SPURS 105, MAVERICKS 101
DALLAS (AP) — Davis Bertans hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:41 left and San Antonio overcame a 19-point first-half deficit to beat Dallas.

Bertans finished with 12 points. Marco Belinelli led the Spurs with 17.

Luka Doncic led Dallas with 25 points, adding eight rebounds and eight assists. He's the first rookie since Stephen Curry in 2010 to score 25 or more points in five straight games.

BUCKS 111, GRIZZLIES 101
MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 27 points and 11 rebounds and Milwaukee had a 19-0 third-quarter run to beat Memphis.

Eric Bledsoe added 16 points to help the Bucks to their third straight victory and 14th in 17 games. Omri Casspi led Memphis with 17 points. The Grizzlies have lost nine of 10 games.

PISTONS 120, MAGIC 115, OT

DETROIT (AP) — Blake Griffin scored 30 points and Andre Drummond added 14 points and 21 rebounds to help Detroit outlast Orlando in overtime.

The Pistons won for the third time in 11 games.

Nikola Vucevic and Terrence Ross each scored 24 points for Orlando.

TRAIL BLAZERS 129, CAVALIERS 112



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry lays up a shot against the New Orleans Pelicans during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Jusuf Nurkic had 10 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his first career triple-double and Portland topped Cleveland.

Damian Lillard had 33 points to lead all scorers, and CJ McCollum had 19 points as Portland snapped a two-game losing streak. Nurkic added five blocks and was treated to a standing ovation when he left the game with 2:13 left.

Jordan Clarkson had 22 points off the bench for the Cavaliers, who were coming off a 101-95 victory over the Lakers that snapped a 12-game losing streak. The game against the Blazers was the fourth of a six-game trip for the Cavs.

The teams combined for just seven turnovers, the fewest since turnovers were

officially compiled starting in the 1970-71 season. Portland had a season-low four and Cleveland had three.

JAZZ 129, CLIPPERS 109
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Donovan Mitchell scored 28 points and Utah defeated Los Angeles for its first five-game winning streak of the season.

Jae Crowder added 23 points, Rudy Gobert had 23 points and 22 rebounds and Kyle Korver had 19 points for the Jazz, who had six players in double figures. The Jazz made 30 of 37 free throws, while the Clippers were 9 of 14.

Lou Williams finished with 23 points off the bench to lead the Clippers, who have lost four straight for the second time this season. Tobias Harris added 17 points and Avery Bradley 15 points. □

NBA's Silver backs Kanter's decision to skip London trip

By ZAC BOYER
LONDON (AP) — NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said Thursday that the safety and security of players will always be paramount for the league after New York Knicks center Enes Kanter did not travel to London for his team's game against the Washington Wizards.

Kanter, who had played in every Knicks game this season until missing the last two with an illness, is averaging 14.4 points and a team-high 11 rebounds.

Kanter said he feared he could be attacked or killed over his opposition to Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan if he were to travel

to London. Istanbul-based newspaper Daily Sabah reported that an arrest warrant was issued for Kanter by Turkish prosecutors on Wednesday.

Silver said NBA officials never suggested that Kanter skip the game but understand why he chose not to travel.

"There are significant issues that he is dealing with, and I recognize that for the NBA, by virtue of the fact that we're a global business, we have to pay a lot of attention to those issues as well," Silver said. "I will say there's nothing more important to me, as the commissioner of the league, the safety and

security of our players, and so we take very seriously the threats that he has received, (even if) it's just people on social media.

"Again, I support Enes, a player in this league, and I support the platform that our players have to speak out on issues that are important to them." □



In this June 19, 2018, file photo, Colorado Rockies relief pitcher Adam Ottavino throws against the New York Mets during the seventh inning of a baseball game in Denver.

Associated Press

AP source: Ottavino, Yankees agree to \$27M, 3-year contract

NEW YORK (AP) — While shying away from high-priced free agents Bryce Harper and Manny Machado, the New York Yankees are boosting their bullpen. Reliever Adam Ottavino and the Yankees agreed to a \$27 million, three-year contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Thursday. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal is subject to a successful physical. Ottavino is a 33-year-old New Yorker who went to Berkeley Carroll High School in Brooklyn and Northeastern University. He wore No. 0 with Colorado, a number not likely to be assigned by the tradition-bound Yankees. He had a career-high 112 strikeouts in 77 2/3 innings last year for the Colorado Rockies, going 6-4 with a 2.43 ERA in 75 relief appearances. The right-hander reduced his fastball percentage, relying primarily on sliders and sinkers. He walked 36. Taken 30th overall by St. Louis in the 2006 amateur draft, Ottavino made his big league debut with the Cardinals in 2010 and was claimed by Colorado off waivers in April 2012. He had Tommy John surgery in May 2016 and returned to the Rockies for the start of

the 2017 season. Ottavino will join right-hander Dellin Betances and left-hander Zach Britton as the primary setup men for closer Aroldis Chapman, part of a bullpen that includes right-handers Chad Green and Jonathan Holder and left-hander Tommy Kahnle. He is the second free agent to leave the Rockies for the Yankees this offseason, following infielder DJ LeMahieu. Former Colorado shortstop Troy Tulowitzki also signed with New York. Ottavino's deal increases the Yankees' projected luxury tax payroll to \$222 million, well over the \$206 million threshold for the 20 percent tax. New York would pay an additional 12 percent surtax on the portion above \$226 million. New York is among only three teams currently projected to pay tax this year, along with the Boston Red Sox and the Chicago Cubs. The Yankees' offseason moves included acquiring left-hander James Paxton from the Seattle Mariners, adding LeMahieu for \$24 million over two years and re-signing Britton (\$39 million for three years), left-hander J.A. Happ (\$34 million for two years), left-hander CC Sabathia (\$8 million for one year) and outfielder Brett Gardner (\$7.5 million for one year). □



In this June 2, 2018, file photo, Atlanta United's Josef Martinez celebrates his goal on a penalty kick against the Philadelphia Union during the first half of an MLS soccer match, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

MVP Martinez signs 5-year extension with Atlanta United

ATLANTA (AP) — Major League Soccer MVP Josef Martinez kept insisting he was happy with Atlanta United. He backed it up Wednesday by signing a five-year contract extension with the MLS Cup champion, ending any questions about whether might be looking for another shot in Europe after a record season. No terms were released on a deal that runs through the 2023 season, but Martinez figured to get a hefty increase over the \$1.4 million in guaranteed salary he received last season. The 25-year-old Venezuelan scored 31 goals in 2018, easily eclipsing the MLS record. He added four more goals in the playoffs, leading Atlanta United to a league championship in just its second season. Martinez became the first player in league history to capture the MVP award for the regular season, the All-Star Game and the MLS Cup in the same year. Martinez initially came to Atlanta United on loan from Torino in Serie A. After struggling in Italy's top division, the striker thrived with the

MLS expansion team, scoring 19 goals in 20 games his first season despite missing extensive time with a quadriceps injury sustained while playing for his national team. He took his totals even higher this past year, demonstrating an ability to score with either foot and especially with his head — a credit to his fearlessness in front of the goal despite his short stature, which is generously listed as 5-foot-7. "This means a lot to me because of the affection that the fans have shown me, that the fans show all of the players. It's unique," Martinez said in a statement. "They recognize the effort that you give and they know you did everything to win, and I think that's why we love playing here. I have to thank everyone. My teammates, the city, my family and friends, because this is a dream I've always had." Martinez stressed that he is comfortable in Atlanta and has no desire to take another shot at playing in a top European league. United has set numerous atten-

dance records over its two season, averaging more than 53,000 per game in 2018. "I've said before that I don't want to go anywhere because this is my home," he said. "You can expect more work, more intensity, because that's who I am. I want to win. I want to do everything for my teammates and for the city." In the MLS Cup title game last month, Martinez scored the opening goal and assisted on the second in a 2-0 victory over the Portland Timbers. "Josef is an exciting, dynamic player and has proven himself to be one of the best in MLS over the past two seasons," team president Darren Eales said. "We're excited to secure Josef's long-term future in Atlanta and we look forward to celebrating many more accomplishments together." Atlanta United opened training camp Tuesday, in preparation for its first appearance in the CONCACAF Champions League next month. The MLS season begins March 3. □

Al-Attiyah wins 3rd Dakar Rally title; Price wins bike class

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Nasser Al-Attiyah won his third Dakar Rally crown while Toby Price won his second motorbike title in a race which featured one last twist on Thursday.

Price came to the 10th and last stage after racing almost 5,200 kilometers with only one minute's lead over Pablo Quintanilla. Then just 10 kilometers into the dune-heavy, 112-kilometer course from Pisco to Lima, Quintanilla fell off his bike and injured his foot.

The chances of winning a first Dakar evaporated instantly, but the Chilean got back on his Husqvarna to try and save a podium place. He lost 19 minutes, though, and dropped to fourth overall.

Al-Attiyah could sit back and play it safe thanks to a 51-minute lead overall. He let others race for the stage win, which went to Carlos Sainz, last year's champion. Al-Attiyah rolled in nine minutes later in his Toyota, and won the Dakar by 46 minutes from Nani Roma, the 2014 champion.

Runner-up to Sainz last year, Al-Attiyah regained

the title he earned in 2011 and 2015, when the Qatari also won with French co-driver Mathieu Baumel.

"It's fantastic, no mistakes," Al-Attiyah said. "The good thing was that from day

know we're good at."

Roma, who won two motorbike titles before switching to four wheels in 2005, was second after a busier-than-usual year of rallying to rebound from crashing

Price broke the scaphoid bone in his right wrist weeks before the Dakar. The Australian thought he would endure two stages then pull out, but support and luck kept him going. The 2016 champion went for broke on Tuesday to take the overall lead.

"The pain and torture has been worth it," Price said. "(The pain) feels like there are about five people driving a knife in my wrist. It's not very comfortable, it's not very enjoyable.

"It's very crazy to sit here and say that we won the Dakar Rally with no stage victories until today. It's really crazy. I'm over the moon."

Defending champion Matthias Walkner, only six minutes behind overall, threatened early but faded on the stage and arrived two minutes behind in third.

Walkner was second overall, nine minutes behind, and Sam Sunderland was third, 13 minutes down.

Sunderland was penalized an hour before the stage on Wednesday for deliberately causing an electrical fault in his navigation

tracker on Tuesday so he wouldn't have to open the way. But the Briton won his appeal to finish only his second Dakar in six attempts. The other was winning in 2017. □



Driver Nasser Al-Attiyah, of Qatar, right, and co-driver Matthieu Baumel, of France, left celebrate with Toyota team manager Glyn Hall winning the Dakar Rally at the arrival of the last stage in Pisco, Peru, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

three we were leading and we built on our time every day until we came to the last day with a big, big lead. We felt that a 100 percent Peru rally, with no other country, there would be a lot of sand dunes, so we could do what we

out early in the Dakar last year. Sebastien Loeb, who was in title contention until electrical problems on Monday, was third at his fourth Dakar.

After Quintanilla crashed, Price won the last stage, his first of this Dakar.

Canelo Alvarez to fight Danny Jacobs on May 4

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Canelo Alvarez will return to the ring and to the middleweight division on May 4 to fight Danny Jacobs.

Alvarez will defend his WBC and WBA titles against IBF champion Jacobs in a matchup of two of the sport's top performers. No venue has been announced for the bout on the eve of Cinco de Mayo. Mexico's Alvarez (50-1-2, 35 knockouts) became a three-division world champion by knocking out Rocky Fielding in three rounds to take the WBA super middleweight crown in December. He now goes back to middleweight,

where he owns a draw and a victory over Genady Golovkin that lifted him to the top of a loaded division.

"I'm happy to announce my next fight during the festive weekend of Cinco de Mayo," the 28-year-old Alvarez said. "I will unify my middleweight titles against Daniel Jacobs on one of the two most important dates that belong to me. I have no doubt that I will be victorious and that I'll be one step away from becoming the undisputed middleweight world champion."

Jacobs, a 31-year-old New Yorker who overcame



In this Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018, file photo, boxer Canelo Alvarez poses for photos at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

bone cancer to become a champion, is 35-2 with 29 KOs.

Despite losing a close bout to Golovkin in 2017, Jacobs remained a force. He hasn't lost since and took the IBF belt by defeating Sergiy Derevyanchenko. "This is the opportunity I have been waiting for, the opportunity to achieve greatness inside the ring," Jacobs said. "I have always believed I can beat

Canelo, and on May 4 live on DAZN, I will get my chance to play it out. It's been nearly four years since Canelo has faced an American challenger. It's going to be a huge event where I believe I will cement myself as the best middleweight in the division."

The fight will be streamed on DAZN, which has a long-term contract with Alvarez. □

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Battle lines forming ahead of a looming U.S. privacy law fight

By **RACHEL LERMAN** and **TALI ARBEL**

AP Technology Writers

Consumer advocates and the data-hungry technology industry are drawing early battle lines in advance of an expected fight this year over what kind of federal privacy law the U.S. should have.

On Thursday, more than a dozen privacy organizations unveiled a plan that would create a new federal data-protection agency focused on regulating the way businesses and other organizations collect and make use of personal data, even if aggregated or anonymized. The proposal would sideline the Federal Trade Commission, which has limited powers and a mixed record of holding companies to account for privacy problems.

On the other side, a think tank backed by Google, Amazon, Microsoft and other major tech companies proposed changes that would still give the industry broad authority to collect and use customer data. The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation called for national legislation that would repeal and replace existing privacy laws with a "common set of protections" intended to encourage innovation while also quashing tougher state laws.

Unlike many industrialized nations, the U.S. has no overarching national law



This Jan. 28, 2015, file photo, shows the Federal Trade Commission building in Washington.

governing data collection and privacy. Instead, it has a patchwork of federal laws that protect specific types of data, such as consumer health and financial information and the personal data generated by younger children.

States have also started to pass their own tougher restrictions. A California measure set to take effect next year, for instance, will let consumers request the data collected from them and to opt out of future collection.

Calls for a national privacy law gained force after Facebook's Cambridge Analytica scandal last year, in which the social media giant was forced to admit

that onetime political consultants for the 2016 Trump campaign had improperly accessed the personal information of as many as 87 million users.

Continuing revelations of data missteps at Facebook and other big tech companies have bolstered a U.S. reform movement. Its advocates take heart from recent developments in Europe, which last year enacted sweeping privacy regulations that, among other things, require companies to obtain permission before collecting most data. Several U.S. senators — including Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, Brian Schatz, a Hawaii Democrat, and Marco Rubio, a

Florida Republican — have already introduced draft privacy legislation.

"Privacy advocates are fed up with the FTC and with Washington failing to reign in the immense power the big data giants hold," said Jeffrey Chester, the executive director of the Center for Digital Democracy, which helped author the reform proposal.

Their proposal would set limits on what data companies can collect and would require firms to consider correcting or deleting personal data upon request. It would also prevent companies from giving customer data to the government unless criminal investigations necessitated it.

By contrast, the ITIF report calls for a "grand bargain" that would accept a national privacy law long opposed by industry. In the foundation's proposal, however, this law would establish "baseline" privacy protections across all indus-

tries — and would prevent states from enacting stronger measures.

"A lot of privacy activists are entrenched in creating ever more complicated rules," Daniel Castro, a co-author of the ITIF report's, said by email. "The only way to simplify these rules is to rewrite them."

Privacy experts say the baseline protections in the ITIF proposal still leave consumers at the mercy of big corporations. For instance, its "limited" consumer protections would require individuals to track the companies that collect their data in order to request access or corrections, rather than shifting that burden to companies themselves, said Eric Null, senior policy counsel at the New America think tank's Open Technology Institute.

The ITIF proposal would also prevent individual lawsuits against companies accused of misrepresenting or misusing their data, primarily to shield corporations from legal risk. Instead, only government would be empowered to protect individual rights. "A federal privacy law should include the power of a private individual to bring legal action," said Adam Schwartz, a lawyer with the Electronic Freedom Foundation, a digital-rights advocacy group. ITIF's plan could potentially start a conversation in Congress over repealing existing federal privacy laws, Null said, but several Democratic lawmakers strongly oppose that. "We should build upon — not dismantle — existing safeguards," said Sen. Ed Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat, in an emailed statement from his office. □

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& private roof top patio



3 colleges that help you handle student debt

By TEDDY NYKIEL

With collective U.S. student loan debt nearing \$1.5 trillion, some colleges are testing innovative solutions to help reduce student borrowing.

Using no-strings-attached student loan payoff-assistance programs, college loan alternatives and annual student debt letters, these three universities are doing their part to curb college debt.

1. UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

The University of Pittsburgh is offering graduating seniors up to \$5,000 in federal student loan relief with one request: They pay it forward.

The school's new program, Panthers Forward, will help recent graduates chip away at student debt and introduce them to alumni mentors to encourage professional development. Students have no obligation to repay the gift, but the university is encouraging recipients to make financial contributions to sustain the program.

The university selected 150 class of 2019 seniors for the program's inaugural year, including history major Cassidee Knott.

"I like the fact that Pitt was able to acknowledge that student debt is so outrageous and work with students to help them make it less daunting," says Knott, who estimates she has about \$100,000 in student



This Jan. 8, 2015, file photo shows a row of chairs with the "Pitt" logo, for the University of Pittsburgh before an NCAA college basketball game in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

loans.

After graduation, the university will make loan payments directly to participants' loan servicers.

2. PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Purdue University's Back a Boiler income-share agreement program is an alternative to private student loans and parent PLUS loans.

In an income-share agreement, or ISA, students get tuition funding in exchange for a fixed percentage of their future income for a set period of time. There's a cap on the total amount they can pay back.

2017 Purdue graduate Andrew Hoyler received \$16,000 through an ISA in

his second year of school. Now, 5.89 percent of the monthly income he earns as a regional pilot goes toward repayment. Hoyler will make payments for 104 total months — about eight and a half years — or until he has paid back 2.5 times the initial amount, or \$40,000.

Hoyler, who also has federal student loans, says the ISA has been "more streamlined and easy to understand." He also has peace of mind knowing that he can afford payments even with entry-level pilot wages. But income-share agreements aren't right for everyone.

Depending on the terms of

the agreement, high-earners could end up paying far more than the amount they received and more than they would have with a student loan. Students can use Purdue's Back a Boiler comparison tool to weigh the costs of an ISA against private student loans and parent PLUS loans.

3. INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Student loan borrowing at Indiana University has dropped 19 percent across all IU campuses from the 2011-12 school year to the 2017-18 school year, according to the university. During that period, the administration has implemented a suite of resources and programs to reduce bor-

rowing.

Most prominently, the university began sending annual letters informing students of the amount they've borrowed and their estimated future monthly loan payments. Since then, states including Indiana, Nebraska and Florida have passed laws requiring colleges and universities to disclose similar information to federal student loan borrowers annually.

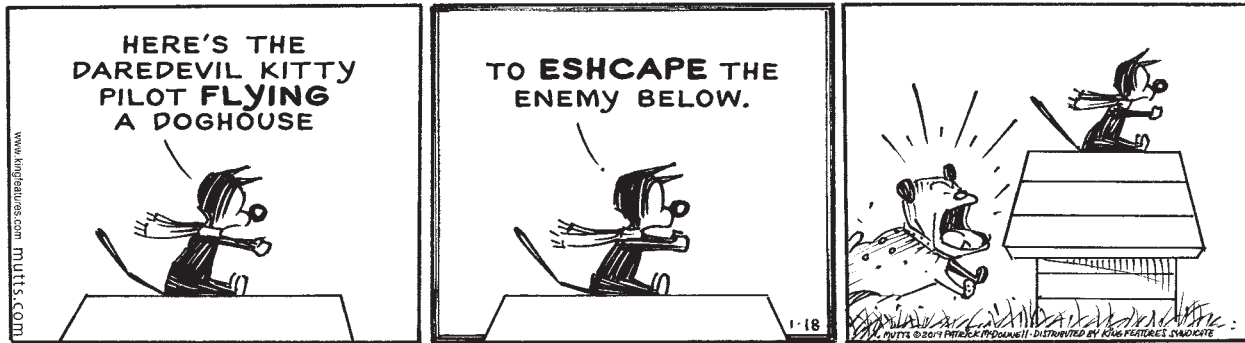
"This is a personalized summary of your estimated current student loan indebtedness," a letter might begin. A student would then find details such as:

- Total education loans: \$25,000.
- Assumed interest rate: 6.80 percent.
- Monthly payment: \$287.
- Cumulative payments: \$34,524.
- Projected interest paid: \$9,524.

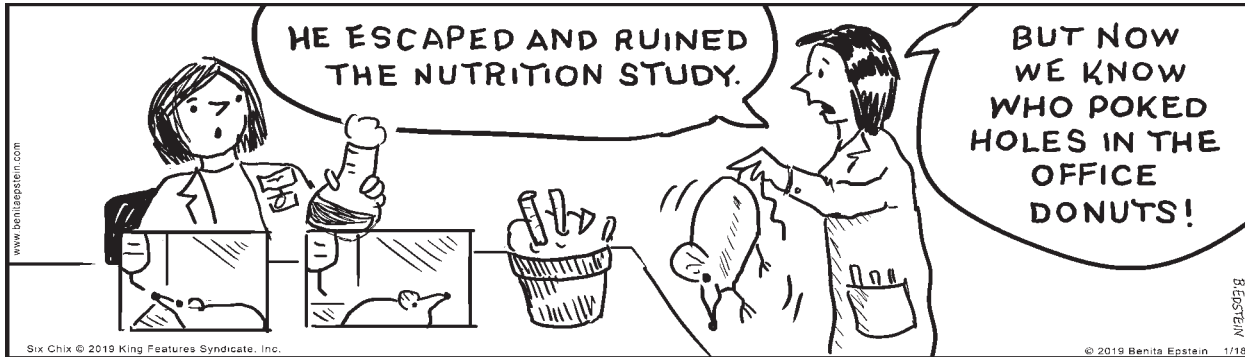
The debt letters were one piece of a larger initiative to reduce borrowing; it's not clear that the debt letters alone caused Indiana University's student borrowing reduction, according to a 2017 independent report published through Brookings Economic Studies program.

The initiative also includes the university's MoneySmarts program, which offers financial literacy education and tools, one-on-one consultations, and for-credit personal finance courses. □

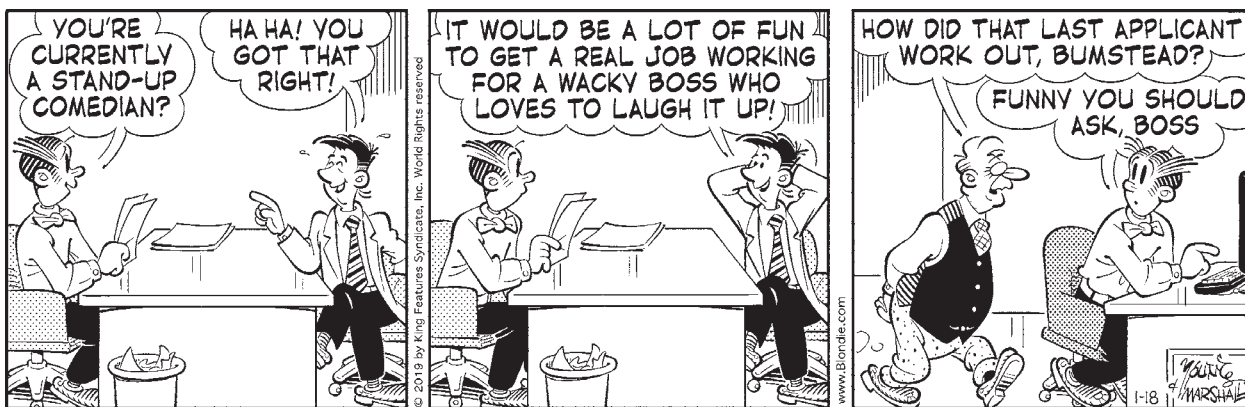
Mutts



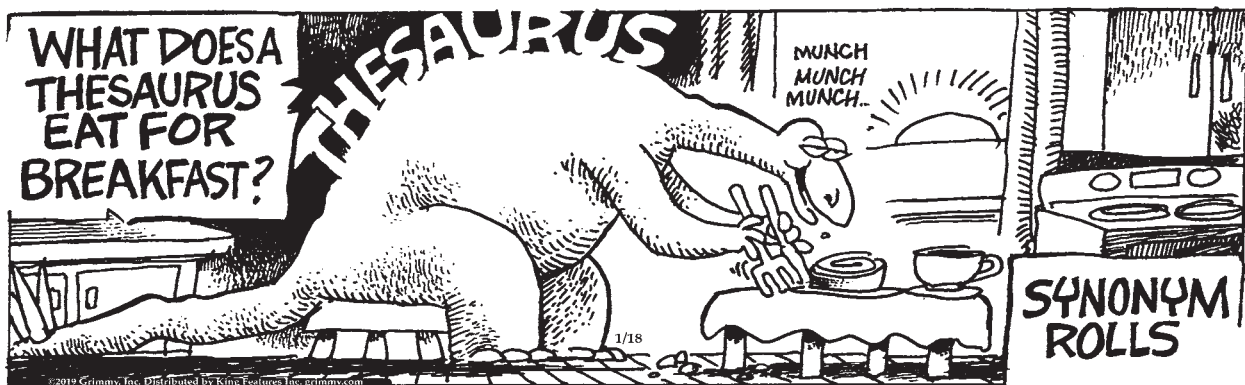
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			4			3		
			1			6		
3	8	7	9			4		
						5	3	8
				6				
2	4	9						
		1			5	8	7	9
		2			4			
		3			7			

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

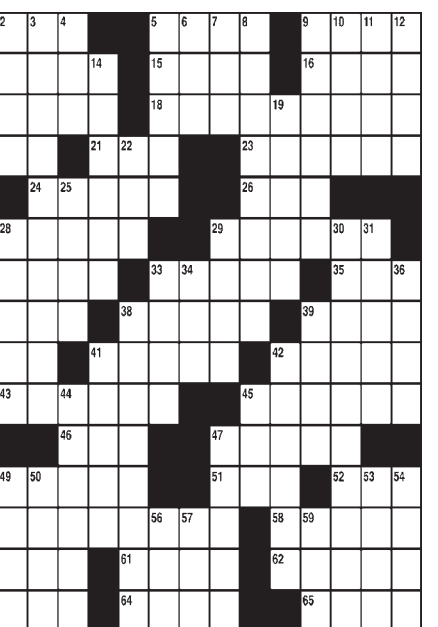
1/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	5	6	7	2	4	8	1	3
4	8	2	1	3	9	7	6	5
3	1	7	5	8	6	9	2	4
6	9	4	3	5	7	2	8	1
8	3	5	6	1	2	4	9	7
7	2	1	4	9	8	3	5	6
2	6	3	8	4	5	1	7	9
5	4	9	2	7	1	6	3	8
1	7	8	9	6	3	5	4	2

ACROSS

- Deadly vipers
- Rowers' needs
- Hooters
- Plank
- Talon
- "As ye sow, so shall ye _"
- Cowboy's rope
- Clock or watch
- Hesitant sounds
- Signal to an actor
- Fled and wed
- Bumbling
- Crony
- Pieces of silverware
- Tough fibrous tissues
- "To be _ to be..."
- _ on; have confidence in
- Shack
- Enjoy a long bath
- Firehouse bell's sound
- Prefix for van or series
- Umpire's cry
- Tugs and yachts
- Arrange
- Disfigure
- Catches some z's
- _ of; free from
- Religion
- _ in; register for
- "_ to Billie Joe"
- Engine need
- Adviser
- Hollandaise or béarnaise
- _ off; wait to take action
- Auctioneer's cry
- Elephant teeth
- Change for a five
- Beer
- Small islands off Florida



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/18/19

DOWN

- Competent
- Fly high
- Ardent
- Final-year students: abbr.
- Group of eight
- Ring king
- Male animal
- Using a broom
- Black-and-orange bird
- Cry
- Frilly trimming
- Ran fast
- Museum guide
- Sow
- FedEx rival
- Kitchen alcove
- Unexceptional
- _ as a peacock
- Phoenix team
- Melania's home
- Dawn
- Boston _ chowder
- Cereal grain
- Apexes

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

G	R	O	W	M	A	D	A	S	S	E	T	S
R	O	M	E	I	D	A	H	O	H	A	R	P
I	N	N	S	N	O	V	A	S	C	O	T	I
M	A	I	P	U	R	E	A	R	S	O	N	
			P	R	A	T	E	D	D	E		
A	R	O	U	S	E		H	O	I	S	T	S
D	A	T	E	S	B	L	I	T	Z	U	P	S
A	G	E	S	C	O	O	R	S	P	R	E	P
M	E	N	C	R	A	T	E	S	O	B	E	R
S	T	A	L	E	R		C	L	O	U	D	Y
			L	O	W		G	R	I	L	L	
A	S	P	E	N		B	E	A	M		E	L
C	O	R	R	E	S	P	O	N	D		K	N
T	R	O	T		H	A	Z	E	L		I	C
S	E	W	S		E	R	O	S	E		M	E

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1/18/19

- Battery-operated
- Sports event
- Seethes with rage
- Most devious
- Palm leaves
- Down in the dumps
- Gerald & Betty
- Reverberate
- Lunchtime
- Reign
- Unpleasant
- _ -than-ideal; not perfect
- Costello or Gehrig
- Obsolete
- Diving seabird

Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

Marriott Points Destinations

2250 Points \$16,000
Divi Vacation Club
and Interval, International
61.000 Points \$14000
La Cabana Blue green points
60.000 points US\$40K

1BR WK # 2 room# D 102 even
year
1 BR WK# 2 room # G303 Odd
year
1 BR WK# 3 room # B203 even
year
1 BR WK# 3 room # G108 Odd
year.
\$3500 each
The Mill Resort
1 BR WK # 4 \$7000

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum
1 BR Ocean View \$10,000
2 BR Ocean View \$16,000
2 BR Ocean Front \$24,000
Aruba Divi Phoenix
1 br wk 1 and 2
Rm 644 33 weeks remain
\$36,000 both

Marriott Surf Club

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2 BR Ocean View \$ 15,000
2 BR Ocean Side \$16,000
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Studio WK 2
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1 BR WK # 3
24 weeks remain \$ 8500
2 BR WK # 3
28 weeks remain \$ 25,000

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 1
25 weeks remain \$8000
1 BR WK # 1 and 2
32 weeks remain \$ 9000 each
Studio wk # 5 and 6
25 and 30 Weeks remain \$
17,000 Both

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 4 and 5
25 and 30 weeks remain \$
9000 each
1 BR WK # 4
20 weeks remain \$9000

Divi Village

1 BR WK # 1
24 weeks remain \$ 9000
Studio WK # 1
23 weeks remain \$ 8000
Studio WK # 6
22weeks remain \$8000

Paradise Beach Villas

1 BR WK # 1 and 2
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Pool/ Ocean View \$ 9000 each

Aruba Divi Phoenix

Studio WK # 1
Ocean Front Villas
3rd Floor 35 weeks remain
\$8500

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR Penthouse WK # 1
28 weeks remain \$35K
1 BR WK # 6 in the front villas
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12,500
1BR WK # 8 \$ 16,500
6 building 4 th floor 29 weeks
remain

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3BEDRM \$12500

PLATINUM Season

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Oceanside \$16k
Oceanview \$15k
3BEDROM \$26k
*WK. 51 OV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$46k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

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1 Bed Oceanfront \$8500

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Asteroids are smacking Earth twice as often as before

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Giant rocks from space are falling from the sky more than they used to, but don't worry.

For the past 290 million years, large asteroids have been crashing into Earth more than twice as often as they did in the previous 700 million years, according to a new study in Thursday's journal *Science*.

But no need to cast a wary glance up. Asteroids still only smack Earth on average every million or few million years, even with the increased crash rate. NASA's list of potential big space rock crashes shows no pending major threats. The biggest known risk is a 4,200-foot (1.3-km) wide asteroid with a 99.988 percent chance that it will miss Earth when it whizzes very near here in 861 years.

Tell that to the dinosaurs. Most scientists think dinosaurs and a lot of other species went extinct after a huge space rock crashed into Central America about 65 million years ago.

"It's just a game of probabilities," said study lead author Sara Mazrouei, a University of Toronto planetary scientist. "These events are still rare and far between that I'm not too worried about



This Dec. 29, 1968 photo made available by NASA shows the large moon crater Goclenius, foreground, approximately 40 statute miles in diameter, and three clustered craters Magelhaens, Magelhaens A, and Colombo A, during the Apollo 8 mission.

Associated Press

it."

Mazrouei and colleagues in the United Kingdom and United States compiled a list of impact craters on Earth and the moon that were larger than 12 miles (20 km) wide and came up with the dates of them. It takes a space rock that's half a mile (800 meters) wide to create holes that big.

The team counted 29 craters

that were no older than 290 million years and nine between 291 million years and 650 million years old. But we can see relatively few big craters on Earth because the planet is more than 70 percent ocean and past glaciers smoothed out some holes, said University of Toronto planetary scientist Rebecca Ghent, a study co-author.

Extrapolating for what can't

be seen brings the total to about 260 space crashes on Earth in the last 290 million years. Adding in other factors, the science team determined that the current space crash rate is 2.6 times more than the previous 700 million years.

Craters older than 650 million years are mostly wiped off on Earth by glacial forces so the scientists used impact craters on the nearby

moon as a stand-in for holes between 650 million and 1 billion years old. The moon is a good guide for estimating Earth crashes, because it is close enough to be in the same bombardment path and its craters last longer.

So what happened nearly 300 million years ago?

"Perhaps an asteroid family was broken up in the asteroid belt," Mazrouei speculated. The space rocks then headed toward the Earth and moon, and the planet got slightly more because it is a bigger target and it has higher gravity, Ghent said.

Outside scientists are split about the research. Jay Melosh at Purdue said he found the number of craters too small to come to a reasonable conclusion, but Harvard's Avi Loeb said the case was convincing.

Humans might not have emerged without mass extinctions from space rocks about 250 million and 65 million years ago, Loeb said in an email, adding, "but this enhanced impact rate poses a threat for the next mass extinction event, which we should watch for and attempt to avoid with the aid of technology."

"This demonstrates how arbitrary and fragile human life is," Loeb wrote. □



In this Jan. 23, 2005 file photo, a humpback whale leaps out of the water in the channel off the town of Lahaina on the island of Maui in Hawaii.

Associated Press

Hawaii's humpback whales to be counted despite fed shutdown

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii (AP)

— An annual humpback whale count in Hawaii will take place despite the federal government shutdown.

West Hawaii Today reported Friday that volunteers from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation will coordinate this season's Ocean Count, a community citizen science project that occurs during the peak of whale season.

The survey is usually conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. The National Marine Sanc-

tuary Foundation is a non-profit partner of the National Marine Sanctuary System.

Although removed from the endangered species list in 2016, most humpback whales remain a federally protected species.

Over 300 volunteers are expected to count whales from shore on Jan. 26.

Researchers say there has been an estimated 50 to 80 percent drop in humpback whale sightings in recent years.

"Fewer humpback whales are being observed in the main Hawaiian Islands in recent years, and we don't know why," said Kris Sarri,

the foundation's president and CEO.

"Unfortunately, critical sanctuary research that could help us understand these changes is on hold indefinitely due to the government shutdown."

Each year, about 11,000 humpback whales migrate from Alaska to Hawaii where they mate and give birth during the winter.

Ongoing speculation and theories have developed about the sudden decline in the whale population's presence in Hawaii. In November, a group of whale experts met in Honolulu to better understand the sudden decrease. □

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Maren Morris starts 2nd album with uplifting "GIRL" single

By KRISTIN M. HALL

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Maren Morris knew the importance of selecting the first single she released from her much-anticipated second record, but as soon as she heard the demo of "GIRL," she knew this was the song she wanted to lead off the album.

"It felt like such a timely song for now," said the 28-year-old Morris of the song she's releasing Thursday that touches on overcoming self-doubt and the pressure of comparison in a world of impossible standards.

Morris wrote the song with Grammy-winning producer Greg Kurstin (Adele, Sia, Kelly Clarkson) and Sarah Aarons, who co-wrote the Top 5 hit "The Middle" featuring Morris, Zedd and Grey. "The Middle" is nominated for record of the year and song of the year, which goes to songwrit-

ers, at this year's Grammy Awards on Feb. 10, and Morris was also nominated for best pop duo/group collaboration.

Morris said inspiration for the song came from a letter she was trying to write to a female friend after they were struggling to keep their friendship on track.

"The day that we wrote 'GIRL,' I was starting to write this letter to her," Morris said. "Why are we competing against one another? Is it ourselves? Is it this industry? Is it the world?"

After an hour of trying to compose her thoughts, she realized something. "I don't think I am writing this to her," Morris said. "I am writing this to myself."

The song is also the title of her new headlining world tour kicking off March 9 in Chicago with an all-female lineup including openers Cassadee Pope and Rae-



In this May 31, 2016, file photo, singer Maren Morris poses in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Lynn. After a run through the United States, the tour will hit cities in Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

"Essentially it's an excuse for me to hang out with them all the time," Morris said.

The new song comes almost three years since she released her breakthrough

single and Grammy-winning song "My Church," from her 2016 debut album, "Hero," and caps a huge year for the Texas-born singer-songwriter. Last year, she married fellow singer Ryan Hurd, toured the globe opening for Niall Horan and spent 33 weeks on the top of Billboard's Hot

Dance/Electronic songs chart with "The Middle."

"To be in major categories is a huge win," Morris said of the recognition for "The Middle." "I think it broke so many genre barriers and put my name and voice out to an audience that hadn't heard it yet."

She's also nominated for best country duo performance and best country song for "Dear Hate," a duet with Vince Gill released after the Las Vegas mass shooting, and a best country solo performance nomination for "Mona Lisas and Mad Hatters," a cover from an Elton John tribute album. "All the songs that I am nominated for were major career risks," Morris said. "Not like career-ending risks, but scary decisions because it's out of people's comfort zone for a country artist to collaborate with an EDM DJ." □

Real and emotional prisons flow through 'No Mercy'

By OLIVE H. COGDILL

"No Mercy" (Minotaur), by Joanna Schaffhausen

Prisons come in various forms, as Joanna Schaffhausen shows in her second outstanding novel, "No Mercy." There are the mortar-and-brick prisons in which criminals are housed, such as the serial killer who kidnapped and tortured Ellery Hathaway. And there are mental prisons where survivors of violent crimes, such as Ellery, are relegated against their will because of memories or fear that their attacker is free or will be released.

Real and emotional prisons flow through "No Mercy." Ellery at age 14 was kidnapped and tortured by serial killer Francis Coben, now in prison. She was the only victim to survive Coben because she was rescued by FBI profiler Reed Markham. Emotionally, Ellery is still locked in that closet, fearful, as if those 15 years have never passed. Ellery changed her name, reinvented herself and established a solid career as a police officer in Wood-

bury, Massachusetts. But the past always lurks behind her, and she is now on involuntary leave after shooting a murderer. Her story continues to be fodder for movies, TV shows, articles and mail from those who revere her for surviving another predator and those who criticize her for surviving. Temporarily living in Boston, she sees a court-appointed psychiatrist who has her attending group therapy with other victims of violent crimes in the hope of getting her job back.

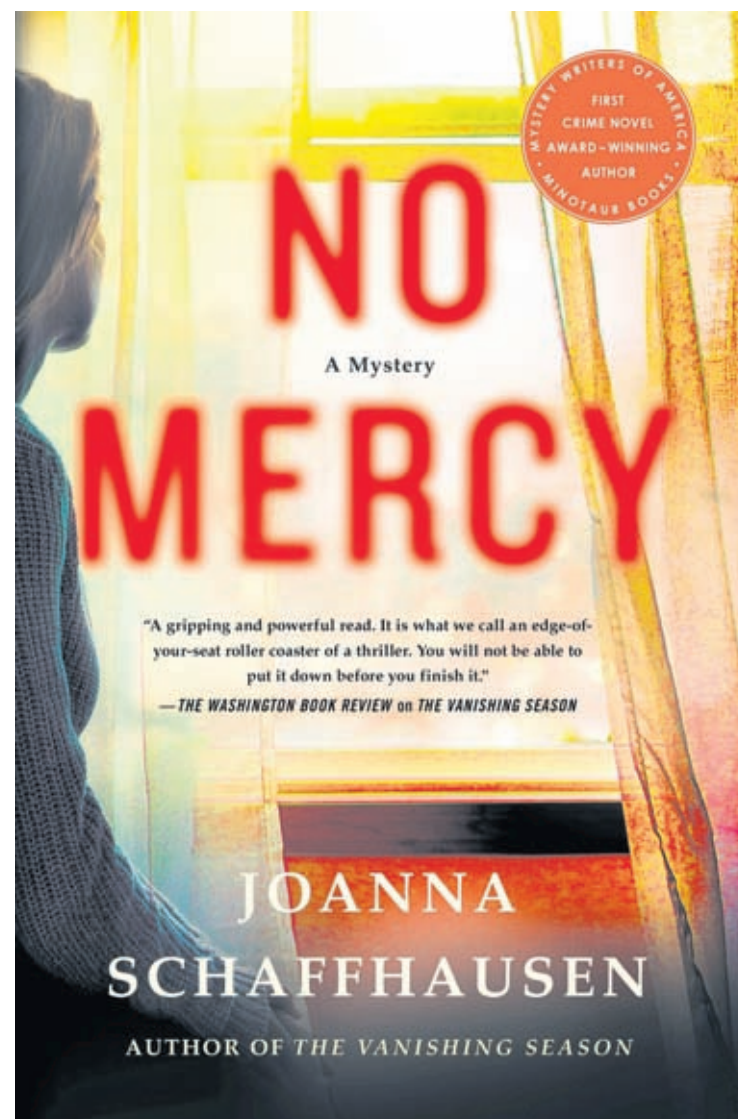
Trying to keep her problems from the group, Ellery becomes intrigued with the stories of two members. Wendy Mendoza wants Ellery to try to find who raped her eight months ago, especially since the police investigation has stalled. As she looks into the attack on Wendy, Ellery becomes interested in the background of Myra Gallagher whose 4-year-old son died in an arson fire more than 20 years before, leaving her badly burned. Ellery asks Reed for help be-

cause she cannot officially investigate either case. Their shared history bound them together but "No Mercy" finds Ellery and Reed drawing closer together.

Schaffhausen takes advantage of her second novel to delve deeper into Ellery, realistically showing how her past continues to control her life. She will forever be known as "the girl who got away." She has no real friends and doesn't date so she will never have to explain her past. Her closest companion is Bump, her loving basset hound. Ellery wants justice for herself and other crime victims, yet is fully aware that she and others in her situation will never be the same.

"No Mercy" illustrates an increased skill at storytelling that Schaffhausen showed in her excellent 2017 debut, "The Vanishing Season," the 2016 winner of the First Crime Novel Competition by Minotaur Books and the Mystery Writers of America's First Crime Novel Award.

A long-running series with Ellery will be most welcomed. □



This cover image released by Minotaur shows "No Mercy," a mystery by Joanna Schaffhausen.

Associated Press

'They Shall Not Grow Old' is an immersive marvel

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Director Peter Jackson is upfront about what audiences should not expect from his unconventional World War I documentary, "They Shall Not Grow Old." This is a film made by a non-historian for an audience of non-historians, he says. There are no dates, names or locations. Neither are there any talking heads or historians or politics. It's just images and the voices of those who were there, telling their own stories.

And the result is riveting — an immersive, haunting and often transcendent experience that's unlike anything you've ever seen before. That's because Jackson has done something revolutionary by restoring, colorizing and adding 3D depth to hundred-year-old footage from the archives of the Imperial War Museum, depicting everything from basic training to the trenches.

Although there are many smiles as the men as young as 15 and 16 look upon the camera that's filming them,



This image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows a scene from the WWI documentary "They Shall Not Grow Old," directed by Peter Jackson.

Associated Press

it does not spare you the harrowing stuff. You watch as soldiers strip off their shoes and socks to reveal gangrene. You see dead bodies piled on top of one another, a hand sticking out of the mud, bare-bottomed soldiers trying to relieve themselves in a makeshift, and quite public, toilet. The mechanics of a cannon are downright hypnotic. The 3D effects make you feel as though you've been transported to

another world, and this isn't even taking into account the voices.

The narration comes from hundreds of hours of BBC and IWM interviews from the middle of the century (Jackson wanted the veterans telling their stories in their 60s, where possible). You never learn who is talking, and the voices change quite frequently, but somehow, with all this somewhat random collection of anecdotes and footage, Jack-

son and his team give what is perhaps the most honest collective account of the Great War that's ever been committed to film.

They talk about joining up, and lying about their ages in order to do so, the rigors of basic training, the logistical difficulties of having one uniform for the entire war, the pain of the army-issued boots, many of which didn't actually even fit the soldiers. They also talk about the unique cama-

raderie in the trenches as somewhat fleeting, which struck me as something I hadn't heard before in all the band of brothers narratives out there, and what it was like when the person next to you was suddenly killed, and the weariness and apathy both they and the Germans seemed to feel as the war stretched on and everyone just wanted to go home. And the big gut-punch is yet to come when they begin to describe what it was like to re-enter civilian life after the war: No one cared. And no one wanted to talk about the war. These veterans were now a nuisance and a burden. "They Shall Not Grow Old" won't prepare you for that history test or ready you to talk about the Gallipoli or Verdun. And yet, while it might not be a conventional history lesson, it is a necessary and utterly urgent one, and it's very much worth taking the trek to the theater for its special engagement on Jan. 21 to take advantage of the astonishing technology on display. □

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PG-13

the upside
BRYAN CRANSTON | KEVIN HART
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SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20
PG-13

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SEAN SCHEMEL | CHRISTOPHER SABAT
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FRI 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15 | 11:30
SAT 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15 | 11:30
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SPANISH
SAT-SUN 1:00
PG-13

BON BINI HOLLAND 2
JANDINO ASPORAAT | LILIANA DE VRIES
DUTCH
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FRI 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35
SAT 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35
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PG-13

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JASON MOMOA | AMBER HEARD
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 3:45 | 6:10 | 9:05
SAT-SUN 3:15 | 6:30 | 9:05
PG-13

BUMBLEBEE
HAILEE STEINFELD | DYLAN O'BRIEN
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:45
SAT-SUN 2:30 | 4:45
PG-13

A DOG'S WAY HOME
BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD | ASHLEY JUDD
MON-FRI 4:50 | 7:00
SAT-SUN 2:40 | 4:50 | 7:00
PG

ESCAPE ROOM
DEBORAH ANN WOLL | TAYLOR RUSSELL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU & SUN 7:10 | 9:25
FRI-SAT 7:10 | 9:25 | 11:40
PG-13

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY
RAMI MALEX | LUCY BOYNTON
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Fans buy 'Little House on the Prairie' star's memorabilia



In this Monday, Jan. 14, 2019 photo, Kenny Lindsay, owner/auctioneer of Kenny Lindsay's American Eagle Auctions and Appraisals Co., holds an original cast and crew photo from the production of the television show, "Little House on the Prairie," in Genoa Township, Mich.

Associated Press

GENOA TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — More than 200 items belonging to "Little House on the Prairie" star Melissa Gilbert and her husband, Emmy-winning actor Timothy Busfield, have been purchased in an estate

sale in Michigan. Items sold in the American Eagle Auction & Appraisal Company online auction this month included a red wedding dress, signed memorabilia and awards Gilbert received, The Liv-

ingston Daily Press & Argus reported.

Interest in the sale exceeded expectations, said auction house owner Kenny Lindsay. The online auction catalog received about 58,000 views and more than 300 bids were placed. "The amount of exposure the auction got was off the charts," Lindsay said, though he declined to disclose how much money was raised during the auction. Lindsay said one standout item was a photograph signed by the cast of "Little House on the Prairie" that the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum in Minnesota purchased for \$1,200.

"Another cool piece was sheet music signed by composer David Rose, who wrote music and the theme song for 'Little House on the Prairie' ... it went for \$1,100," Lindsay said. □

Givenchy designer puts on debut menswear show in Paris

By THOMAS ADAMSON

PARIS (AP) — Designer Clare Waight Keller unveiled her first menswear collection for storied house Givenchy at Paris menswear week Wednesday as actress Laura Dern caught up with The Associated Press at Valentino's display that channeled the darkly depths of monochrome.

Dern spoke about how, as a mother of a budding model, she is taking a particular interest in the fashion industry.

Here are some highlights of the fall-winter 2019-20 shows.

GIVENCHY MENSWEAR STANDS ALONE

Keller, the house's first-ever female designer, reflected her growing confidence in menswear by holding the first standalone men's show since she ascended to the house's artistic helm in 2017. It was an old-school presentation that harkened back to the traditions of Parisian couture.

A small group of guests climbed the neoclassical steps of Givenchy's couture salons to discover Waight Keller waiting by masses of delicate baby's breath flowers that adorned the wooden Haussmannian floor.

The beautifully constructed clothes captured the individualism of the 1990s in a contrast with the historic venue.

In an unusual touch of class, the designs were explained by the 48-year-old designer as the garments were being showcased by models. The silhouette featured long, and sometimes flared, legs; oversized shapes; rounded shoulders; and flashes of bold color: violet, electric blue and fuchsia.

Waight Keller's mission, she said, was to take the hardness out of men's clothes. "My woman in Givenchy has a strength to her ... but I wanted to bring a softer side to the men's. Part of that is (seen) in the flowers, but also in the feel of the roundness, softness and the fluidity of the fabrics," she explained.

Slim suits, flared check pants and soft truncated



A model wears a creation for the Walter Van Beirendonck men's Fall/Winter 2019/20 fashion collection presented in Paris, Wednesday Jan. 16, 2019.

Associated Press

bubble jackets evoked the mix-and-match styles of the haphazard nineties.

But the acute precision that has been proven in Waight Keller's couture shows was also abundantly clear in this very strong standalone debut.

A tucked-in white shirt, for example, was constructed with a double outer panel that hung down outside softly: part-grunge, part-angel.

LAURA DERN IS A PROUD MOTHER

In a pleated red silk Valentino gown, "Blue Velvet" actress Laura Dern looked very much the part on the design house's front row alongside rapper G. Eazy. As the mother of 17-year-old Ellery Harper — Dern said she was taking an interest in the fashion industry to help her son.

"My son is modeling now so I have a particular interest in men's fashion in a new way. I'm fascinated," she said. "You will see him very soon in Paris."

Harper has modeled for Calvin Klein under the

watchful eye of designer Raf Simons, and Dern says that Valentino's designer Pierpaolo Piccioli has also been "generous" in helping his nascent career.

Dern, who came to fame via collaborations with director David Lynch, said she encourages her son to tread carefully in an industry that can be so public, but to relish the opportunities to meet "designers he loves."

"When I was his age, I met David Lynch who inspired me so much as an actor. I feel like Ellery should take it slowly and find the people that help him find his destiny."

VALENTINO GOES MONOCHROME

Valentino claimed it was bringing street attitude to the atelier.

But for fall-winter, Italian designer Pierpaolo Piccioli seemed to have lost some of his creative attitude after a run of superlatively glorious seasons since he took over the sole artistic reins in 2016.

On Wednesday, he played

it pretty safe.

Blocks of monochrome — in gray, camel and black — were a key theme of the collection that was held inside an industrial-looking hall of the Grand Palais. Round sloping shoulders, boxy torsos and baggy pants defined the silhouette.

But much of the creative work, such as contrasting textures and layering, were rendered invisible because of the monochrome.

The collection was, however, not lacking in nice quirks, such as a spaceship motif and one voluminous gray Sherlock Holmes cape coat and detective-style hat hybrid.

OFF-WHITE, OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Chaotic scenes abounded in Virgil Abloh's collection for Off-White that was held in a little-known part of the sprawling underbelly of the Louvre as many guests got lost.

The museum structure is, by quite a margin, the world's biggest.

Bewildered editors wan-

dered in search of the show venue by pyramids, Greco-Roman statues and luxury boutiques to no avail.

Some fashion insiders even ended up following unsuspecting tourists in the wrong direction, confusing them as part of the fashion press.

Others were led up and down stairs, and above and below ground several times, before finding the proper entrance.

Inside the venue, there was little respite for the lucky guests who did eventually get in as they sweated in sweltering high temperatures in the jungle-like show decor.

VIRGIL ABLOH'S URBAN EXCESS

Big silhouettes, bold color and urban styles were behind Virgil Abloh's visually arresting fall-winter collection.

Concrete slabs were laid among overgrown creepers, grass and ferns as the show decor to evoke a sense of inner-city decay.

This was the first clue to understanding the American it-designer's urban vibe that played on excesses in color and overgrown proportion. It's little wonder that the house has, in the recent past, attracted the likes of Jay-Z, Drake and Kanye West.

Billowing denim jeans with hanging toggles began an oversize theme, alongside a huge suit jacket and a gargantuan fanny-pack slung across the torso.

Unfortunately, these made up the most subtle part of the display.

Shredded silver ribbons then cascaded from bell-silhouette Glam Rock boots, followed by contrasting checks and a giant column bubble jacket that did away with the model's body. Abloh later delved into eye-popping neon.

Neon oranges, reds and blues in knitted oversize scarves, tops and coats might have reflected the bold hues of urban graffiti.

The oft-unwanted street art form was more literally evoked in graffitied text reading "Public Television." □

A peek at how Disney resort shows are made

By MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)

— With excitement building over a new "Star Wars" land opening later this year at Walt Disney World, as well as at its California cousin, it's easy to forget a slew of new entertainment shows also are debuting in the biggest year for the Florida theme park resort in two decades.

If the famous Disney Imagineers provide the "wow" factor with their fantastical feats of engineering on rides and attractions, it's the entertainment division that provides Disney World's heart.

Disney World recently invited The Associated Press for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at how it puts the shows together. The AP saw dancers rehearsing in a studio, rows of seamstresses stitching together costumes, a warehouse full of parade floats and a room where virtual reality technology is used to help build a new animatronic show.

The results of those labors take stage Friday when Disney World unveils a new Magic Kingdom parade, a Hollywood Studios street showing off the characters from "The Incredibles" franchise, a Caribbean-style street band in Animal Kingdom and the start of an arts festival at Epcot. In a few months, the resort opens a new animatronics show based on the "Cars" character Lightning McQueen.



In this Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 photo, actors with giant puppets perform the show Finding Nemo-The musical at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Associated Press

Here's a look at the behind-the-scenes people who produce the pixie dust. Many of them started out as performers and have been at Disney World for decades.

THE BOSS

Bettina Buckley oversees the entertainment division's 6,700 workers in 100 different disciplines responsible for more than 200,000 performances a year at the resort.

Putting a show based on a character under the Disney corporate umbrella in Disney World extends the life of that franchise, ultimately making it more valuable to the company. When de-

ciding on which character or property to use for a show, she pays attention to what visitors say in surveys and letters.

She also considers the available space and how the show would affect the brand.

"If a character resonates, we stop and say, 'Hey, maybe we should do something,'" said Buckley, vice president of live entertainment at the resort.

THE DREAMERS

Once a character or intellectual property is picked, creative development director Reed Jones, show writer Allison Hirsch and a team consisting of a puppeteer, a juggler, a musical theater pro, an improv artist, technicians and musicians meet for weekly brainstorming sessions to figure out how to bring the story into the three-dimensional world through writing, costumes, music and lighting.

No idea is off the table.

"It's a one-hour variety show. We kind of can't let people see it because it's really wacky and funny," Jones said.

THE REALIST

Joseph Gregory "GG" Cook makes sure the ideas that "the dreamers" come

up with can actually work. "I am the rubber that meets the road," said Cook, manager of theatrical design and technical production. He is helped by a darkened "pre-visualization" room where two large screens and a virtual reality headset help him see what shows will look like in a 3D model, and how they will be maintained, before they are built.

"It's the hub of the wagon wheel, if you will. We pre-visualize our entire show, soup to nuts," Cook said. "It allows us the opportunity not to have to build a real-world model."

THE COSTUME DESIGNER

Harmony McChesney has a

piece of Velcro in her purse at all times. When it's time to test a fabric's durability, she rubs the Velcro against the fabric. If it snags, "I say, this doesn't belong to us. It's not our friend," said McChesney, a costume designer with big glasses, auburn hair swept up and large costume jewelry.

Durability is a must since the costumes worn by dancers, singers and costumed characters are washed every day. The department makes 10,000 costume pieces with the help of 300 sewers and six designers.

McChesney works in a room the size of a football field. Hundreds of bright-colored costumes and dozens of torso dummies, hang from racks along the wall. On a recent day sewers sat in rows of sewing machines near a dressing room where performers try on their costumes.

McChesney was focused on the costumes for the new parade in the Magic Kingdom park starring Mickey and Minnie. The costumes were white with colored confetti printed on the fabric in a look that resembled vanilla cupcakes with colorful sprinkles and colorful trim that looked like icing.

Call it couture for Disney characters.

"There's a lot of stuff that people could use for theater that we can't use for theme parks just because of the durability and how much use it's going to get," McChesney said. "You want it to last a long time." □



In this Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 photo, Magic Kingdom Entertainment proprietor Carmen Kee looks over parade floats in a warehouse at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Associated Press



In this Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 photo, workers paint part of a street scene that is based on the movie "The Incredibles" at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

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